Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Foreign Ministry Issues Note on Khmer Rouge Massacre *[Havana Radio]* 1
Brazilian Business Mission Concludes Meetings *[Havana Radio]* 1

Haiti

International Envoy Caputo Continues Meetings *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 1
Meets With Unionists, Political Leaders *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 2
Cancels Meeting With Private Sector *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 2
Ministers Publish Report on Negotiations, Other Issues *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 2
UN/OAS Effects Release of Alleged Aristide Activist *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 3
Political Organizations Plan Peaceful Gathering 29 Mar *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 3

Jamaica

Parties Conflict Over Election Legality, Readiness *[CANA]* 3
Security Forces Vote Day Late Following 'Foul-Up' *[CANA]* 4
Three Killed in Election-Related Violence *[CANA]* 4
More on Election Violence *[CANA]* 4
JLP Leader Seaga Comments on Violence *[CANA]* 5

CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize

Government, Guatemala To Cooperate on Border Crime *[CANA]* 7
Commonwealth Secretary General Begins Visit *[CANA]* 7

Costa Rica

Foreign Minister on Security Measures at Embassies *[San Jose Radio]* 7
Costa Rica Requests Urbina Lara's Extradition *[San Jose Radio]* 8

El Salvador

Supreme Court Rejects Truth Commission Report *[ACAN]* 8
Reasons for Court Rejection *[San Salvador Radio]* 8
Further Comments by Supreme Court *[San Salvador TV]* 9
Cristiani on U.S. Reaction To Truth Commission Report *[San Salvador Radio]* 9
Anticommunist Army Rejects Truth Commission Report *[DIARIO LATINO 24 Mar]* 10
Commentary on Pressure To Comply With Recommendations *[San Salvador Radio]* 11
Gen. Vargas Comments on Withdrawal of U.S. Advisers *[San Salvador Radio]* 11
Cristiani Denies Opposition Claim of Duality of Power *[EL MUNDO 26 Mar]* 11
Arena Proclaims Armando Calderon Sol Presidential Candidate *[AFP]* 12
FMLN Leader on Missile Destruction in Nicaragua *[San Salvador Radio]* 12

Guatemala

Government, URNG Agree on Civilian Participation Mechanism *[PRENSA LIBRE 28 Mar]* 13
Group Terms Government-Guerrilla Decision 'Positive' *[ACAN]* 13
Presidential Spokesman Muniz Submits Resignation *[EL GRAFICO 27 Mar]* 14
Interior Minister Denies Media Harassment *[PRENSA LIBRE 26 Mar]* 14
Soldier Says Capt. Contreras Gave Order To Murder Devine *[PRENSA LIBRE 25 Mar]* 15

Honduras

President Reacts To Congress Decision on Military Law Code *[Tegucigalpa TV]* 15
Military Agrees With Decision on Military Laws *[EL HERALDO 26 Mar]* 16

Nicaragua

Alfredo Cesar on Dialogue, Other Issues *[Managua Radio]* 16

Panama

DEA Reportedly Examines Drug-Trafficking Links *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 28 Mar]* 20
Minister on Use of Frequencies for Political Purposes *[LA PRENSA 27 Mar]* 20
Opposition Leader Says 'Hard Blow' Dealt To Economic Plan
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 26 Mar] 21
Journalists Issue Communique on Government Accusations *[EL SIGLO 27 Mar]* 21

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Comments on U.S. Relations, Mercosur *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 23
Argentina Threatens To Sue Oil Companies on Falklands *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 23
Government Takes Responsibility for State Companies' Debts *[TELAM]* 24
Poll Indicates Voters Favor Menem's Reelection *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 24

Bolivia

Paz Leaves on Seven-Day Visit to Germany 27 Mar *[La Paz TV]* 24
Peruvian Envoy Denies Presence of Shining Path *[La Paz Radio]* 24
Government To Pay Off Debt to International Banks Through Repurchase *[Madrid EFE]* 25
Government Formally Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics *[LA RAZON 17 Mar]* 25
Government To Prove Drug-Control, Enforcement Actions to UN Commission *[Madrid EFE]* ... 25
Six New Drug Enforcement Experts Named *[LA RAZON 18 Mar]* 26
Coca Growers Demand Expulsion of Peasant Leader *[PRESENCIA 17 Mar]* 26

Brazil

Attorney General Asks Supreme Court To Arraign Collor *[Brasilia Radio]* 27
Franco Dismissing Bahia Governor's Friends, Followers *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 25 Mar]* 27
Government Supervision of Cost-Pricing Policies To Become Centralized *[O GLOBO 26 Mar]* ... 27
Nuclear Plant Technicians Admit Possible Crack in Fuel Rod *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 28
FEC To Invest Approximately $600 Million in Angra-2 Nuclear Plant
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 23 Mar] 28
Drought Affecting 52 Percent of Northeastern Municipalities
[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 20 Mar] 28
Government Considers Terms of Foreign Debt Renegotiation 'Unacceptable'
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 25 Mar] 29
Looting, 'Invasions' Said Increasing 'Every Day' in Northeast *[O GLOBO 25 Mar]* 30
Franco Meets With Cuban Envoy, Considers Visit to Cuba
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 25 Mar] 30
Government Reapplying 'Pressure' on Clinton To Suspend Surtax
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 25 Mar] 30
Businesses Said Transferring Money Abroad to 'Fiscal Paradises'
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 25 Mar] 30

Chile

'Terrorists' Shoot Up Precinct Police Station *[Santiago Radio]* 31
Police Arrest Lautaro Group Second in Command *[Santiago TV]* 31

Lautaro Group Member Dies in Clash With Carabineros *[Santiago TV]* 31
Presidential Hopefuls Announce Signing of Agreement To Elect CPPD Candidate
[Santiago Radio] 31
Defense Minister Rules Out Military Budget Cuts *[EL MERCURIO 17 Mar]* 32
Judge Sentences Mapuche Indians for Squatting, Criminal Association
[EL MERCURIO 18 Mar] 32
Deputy Decides To Tender Resignation From Renewal Party *[EL MERCURIO 15 Mar]* 32
Foreign Ministry States Government Support for Russia *[Santiago Radio]* 33
'Important' Bilateral Agreements Signed With Brazil *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Access to Atlantic Port Planned *[Santiago Radio]* 33

Colombia

Car Bomb Explodes in Yumbo 28 Mar; 2 Officers Dead *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 33
Draft Law on Internal Disturbance Decrees in Congress *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 33
Escobar Security Chief Arrested, Under DEA Custody *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 34
Intelligence Organizations Reveal Escobar's Security System *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 34
DAS Seizes Medellin Cartel Information, Vehicles *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 34
Armed Forces Commanders Criticize de Greiff's Remarks on Corruption
[Santa Fe de Bogota TV] 34
Armed Forces Chief Defends Authorities' Effiencey on War Against Subversion
[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio] 35

Ecuador

Finance Minister on Economic Adjustments *[Quito Radio]* 35

Paraguay

PLRA President Comments on Stroessner, Election *[ABC COLOR 25 Mar]* 35
Colorado Party President's Address Criticized *[NOTICIAS 26 Mar]* 38
Candidate Wasmosy's Economic Program Praised *[Asuncion TV]* 38
Renegotiation of Itaipu Treaty Through Mercosur Considered *[ABC COLOR 25 Mar]* 39
Weapons Deal Reportedly Linked to 'Iran-Contras' Arms Deal *[NOTICIAS 26 Mar]* 40

Peru

Fujimori on 'Alleged' Cut in U.S. Aid in Antidrug Struggle *[Madrid EFE]* 41
Foreign Minister: Cuts Not That Significant *[Lima TV]* 41
Seventy Prisoners Said To Escape From Quencoro Prison *[Lima TV]* 41
Bomb Outside School Causes Heavy Damage, No Injuries *[Madrid EFE]* 41
Fujimori Asks Those in 'Terrorist' Ranks To Surrender in Video Message *[Lima TV]* 42
Third-Ranked MRTA Leader Captured in Arequipa *[LA REPUBLICA 18 Mar]* 42
Narcotics Brigade Seizes 250 kg of 'Pure' Cocaine Hydrochloride *[Lima TV]* 42
Congress Approves Articles on Presidential Powers *[Lima TV]* 42
Five Members of Honor Tribunal of the Magistracy Sworn In *[Lima TV]* 43

Uruguay

Lacalle Hails NAFTA, Ends Visit to Mexico *[Montevideo Radio]* 43
Foreign Minister on Mexico Visit *[Montevideo Radio]* 43
Defense Minister Confirms Wage Increase for Military *[EL PAIS 19 Mar]* 44

Venezuela

Minister Denies Resignation Reports; Explains 15 Mar Events *[EL NACIONAL 17 Mar]* 44
Press Association, Perez Hold Meeting on Freedom of Media *[Caracas TV]* 45
Energy Minister Reports 1992 Petroleum Profits *[Caracas TV]* 45

Cuba

Foreign Ministry Issues Note on Khmer Rouge Massacre

FL2703025293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Relations has issued a note regarding the Khmer Rouge massacre of Vietnamese fishermen who live in the Cambodian province of Siemreab. This is the full text:

On the 16th of this month, the UN spokesman in Cambodia confirmed the latest massacre by the Khmer Rouge, of peaceful Vietnamese fishermen who lived in the Cambodian province of Siemreab. In this criminal action, 33 Vietnamese people lost their lives, including eight children, and 29 others were injured. The Khmer Rouge, which signed the Paris Accords, has continued to sabotage the implementation of the accords and conduct terrorist acts, not only against the Vietnamese community but also against the Cambodian population, and even UN personnel.

This appalling event, which clearly illustrates the moral makeup of its authors, is also aimed at blocking the peace process in Cambodia and at creating a climate of instability prior to the National Assembly elections, as well as being an expression of danger [as heard] and abominable anti-Vietnamese policy.

It is imperative for the UN Security Council, the countries which act as copresidents of the Paris Accords, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, to immediately take appropriate measures to avoid a recurrence of such actions and prevent the obstruction of the Cambodian peace process and, therefore, the stability of southeast Asia.

Brazilian Business Mission Concludes Meetings

FL2603202093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The encounter between a Brazilian commercial mission and represenatives of Cuba has ended in Havana after four days of meetings. Our reporter Gisela Bel Heredia has the details.

[Bel Heredia] Mr. (Milton Peretti), vice president of the Brazil-Cuba Chamber of Commerce and Industry, upon ending the work sessions that concluded in the signing of eight agreements-in- principle and two letters of intention, stated that: This mission attained its objectives, and we were able to reach conclusions and do things that it would have been difficult for technical missions to accomplish.

[Begin recording] [(Peretti), in a mixture of Spanish and Portuguese)] Because we did not just discuss projects up in the air. We discussed them effectively because the presidents and general directors of 22 of the most important groups in Brazil were present.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. (Peretti), regarding Brazilian-Cuban relations, what does this trade diplomacy mission and its results mark?

[(Peretti)] In my opinion, this marks the entry of private business into direct negotiations. I mean, not like business was conducted before, when firms or businesses were asked to submit bids. Not now. The businessmen come to Cuba... [rephrases] the businessmen have come to Cuba and really reached concrete, broad agreements for joint production by (?real) mixed enterprises. And, well, we think that this is just the first small seed. We hope many others will be able to come—as an example of the will of the Brazilian business community to support the Republic of Cuba.

[Reporter] Which means you see a possibility of increasing these trade relations?

[(Peretti)] I hope so. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Haiti

International Envoy Caputo Continues Meetings

FL2603164893 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Excerpts] International mediator Dante Caputo continues his visits in Haiti. He continues to meet with various sectors. In the afternoon of 25 March, Dante Caputo met with over eight union organizations and people's organizations after he had met with several leaders and various political parties such as the National Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom] which was represented by Professor Victor Benoit and Jean-Claude Bajeux. Several unionists, who were giving their opinions on their meetings with Caputo, said that this time they hope honest work will be done in order to extricate the country from the crisis. [passage omitted]

Caputo will continue his series of meetings today. He will meet with Chamber of Commerce officials at 1100 and—if the international mediator has time—he will tour several provincial cities, in particular Les Cayes. However, according to the latest news from AFP this morning, the international mediator has canceled the tour he had planned in the south of the country; the tour would have taken him to Les Cayes today and to Jeremie tomorrow. He has canceled those meetings so....[pauses] those visits so he can devote himself to the meetings he will have with the Haitian civilian and military authorities, according to well-informed diplomatic sources. If this visit had been made, it would have allowed Caputo to follow the deployment of the UN/OAS civilian mission in charge of observing whether human rights are respected in the rest of the country. The number of mission members established in Haiti is 106.

Caputo will end his mission on 29 March with a news conference. It is perhaps during this conference that the Haitian people will have an idea of the results of this series of political meetings. The press has made an effort to get

information on what has been discussed during the meetings, but nothing has been disclosed so far. Caputo's task this week is to set up a procedure which will result in a negotiated solution.

Meets With Unionists, Political Leaders

FL2703000093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The UN/OAS mediator Dante Caputo continued his political talks in Port-au-Prince in an attempt to find a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis. The UN envoy met with labor unions and political leaders. Jean-Max Blanc filed a report:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Blanc] International mediator Dante Caputo, who represents the UN and OAS in the Haitian crisis, is continuing his series of meetings with representatives of civilian society. This series of meetings is aimed at finding a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis. On the fourth day of his mission, Caputo met with political leaders, representatives of grassroots organizations, and unionists. CNEH, National Confederation of Haitian Teachers; CGT, General Confederation of Workers; and FOS, Federation of Syndicated Workers, were some of the labor unions that met with the former Argentine foreign minister. Labor union member Lucius Dalcius says that what remains essential, and what he bears in mind, is what he told the mediator from the beginning—that the unionists would not beat around the bush.

[Dalcius] I believe that the very thing that FOS said was that [first,] we would not accept stall tactics from any quarter. Second, we feel that the crisis has lasted too long and we wish, together with all the concerned sectors, to participate. We wish to say clearly, given that President Aristide represents the choice of the majority in the country, that as a labor union, we base ourselves on principles. As a labor union, we believe it is a democratic principle: a president was elected with a mandate. We support his completion of this mandate. This is what we are pleading for. It is the democratic principle that we are pleading for. [end recording]

[Blanc] These same statements were made by the leader of CTH, Confederation of Haitian Workers, with hope shining in his face, after his meeting with the UN/OAS envoy. Jean-Claude Lebrun let it be known that the concerned parties to the crisis, according to what he understood from Mr. Caputo, express great willingness to resolve the crisis. [passage omitted]

The head of the OAS mission, Collins Granderson, stated that on the same evening, 25 March, Mr. Caputo was due to meet with other political leaders such as the CONACOM, National Congress of Democratic Movements, leader. According to Mr. Granderson, the UN/OAS envoy intends to meet with representatives of civilian society from top to bottom. After these meetings, Dante Caputo might tour the regional cities of the country to meet with mission members who are spread throughout the country. [passage omitted] Mr. Caputo, who is spending a week in Haiti, is due to give a news conference. Once he returns to the United States, Mr. Caputo will give a report to the UN secretary general and to the OAS secretary general regarding his mission in Haiti. [end recording]

Cancels Meeting With Private Sector

FL2703010493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 18300 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] With great discretion, UN/OAS mediator Dante Caputo pursued his talks in Port-au-Prince today with civilian and military authorities in seeking a solution to the Haitian crisis. Caputo canceled the meeting he had scheduled for the end of the day with representatives of the private and professional sector at the Chamber of Commerce of Haiti in order to devote himself to his political talks.

Ministers Publish Report on Negotiations, Other Issues

FL2703003193 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Excerpts] A press release published by the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers on 26 March reports on the progress of negotiations between the government and the United Nations/OAS. The foreign affairs minister sums up the working relations between the UN/OAS civilian mission and the Haitian chancery at the Council of Ministers meeting, emphasizing the efforts being made by both sides to control relations in the interest of the concerned parties, but admitting that there is divergence in the way the terms of reference are being interpreted, especially regarding the special identification card.

The prime minister also gave a report on his meetings with U.S. mission heads, Lawrence Pezzullo and Ambassador Charles Redman; and with the special envoy of the general secretariat of the United Nations and the OAS, Mr. Dante Caputo. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers discussed other issues such as the matter of the petroleum product supply. The finance minister presented to the council a plan to build and rent to the Haitian Government a series of additional facilities so petroleum products can be stocked. Eight tanks, which can contain 3.24 million gallons, are already available and have already been rented to the Haitian Government at the rate of 1.05 gourde per gallon per year. Due to the embargo and considerable risk of petroleum stock depletion, the government would like the available capacity brought to approximately 8.4 million gallons. Given the devaluation of the gourde and the fact that the new tanks are built with a more resistant material, the rental price has since increased to 2.25 gourdes per gallon per year.

Concerning the situation at the Faculty of Medicine, the Council of Ministers communique says the minister of public health and population made a report to the council on the situation at the Faculty of Medicine, advising that since the rectorate made the decision to recruit 100 new students, relationships within the faculty have become strained. The minister advocated a more concerted action

between the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Public Health [and Population]. [passage omitted]

UN/OAS Effects Release of Alleged Aristide Activist

FL2703003293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] In Jeremie, the president of the St. Vincent de Paul Commission has been released after having been arrested on 22 March by military authorities who accused him of conducting subversive activities in favor of the ousted president.

[Begin correspondent recording, in Creole] After a 48-hour detention in the Grand Prison in Jeremie, the president of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Benito Romain, was released on 23 March.

Romain, who was accused of holding subversive meetings, is said to have been manhandled by the commander of the Jeremie subdistrict. The president of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference has great difficulty walking and sitting. He can only lie on his belly while being taken care of.

It should be pointed out that the UN/OAS civilian mission members faced great obstacles in attempting to visit the president of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference because the soldiers guarding the prison strongly opposed their visit. The members of the civilian mission were determined not to leave the prison without seeing Mr. Romain. Romain is the second person that the members of the UN/OAS civilian mission helped release since they were installed in Jeremie.

Jean-Robert Maturin, Jeremie, for Radio Metropole. [end recording]

Political Organizations Plan Peaceful Gathering 29 Mar

FL2603172693 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] The political organizations that launched Operation Respect have announced a peaceful gathering in front of the Legislative Palace in Bicentenaire for Monday, 29 March. Operation Respect initiated the idea of gathering in order to show their commitment to the country's Constitution.

A press release, signed by 33 organizations, says that the 29 March 1987 Constitution has been useless since the 30 September coup. Operation Respect thinks that only the restoration of constitutional order can allow the country to get out of its current political crisis.

According to Operation Respect, the legitimate parliamentarians swore to respect the Constitution; yet, the crisis has affected Parliament just like all the other institutions in the country. Besides being the fourth [number as heard] anniversary of the Constitution, the 29 March gathering in front of the Parliament has other purposes, which include enforcing the law, ending coups d'etat, ending torture and repression, ending insecurity, respecting the autonomy of the university, respecting the 16 December 1990 and 20 January 1991 elections, and resolving the crisis which the country is now experiencing.

Jamaica

Parties Conflict Over Election Legality, Readiness

FL2703022893 Bridgetown CANA in English 2332 GMT 26 93

[By Garfield Myers]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 26, CANA—The legality of the decision by Jamaica's electoral office to postpone Friday's planned poll of soldiers and policemen to Saturday, is being questioned by the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

"The law does not provide for them to vote tomorrow," opposition leader Edward Seaga said late Friday. "Legal questions will now arise." Seaga said the postponement indicated that preparations for next Tuesday's general election were in a state of chaos and that the electoral office would not be ready.

The office said that Friday's planned poll was aborted without a ballot being cast because of computer problems which prevented the delivery of electoral documents including voters lists and ballot papers to polling centres. The security forces are voting ahead of the general public in order to leave them free to ensure law and order on election day.

Director of elections Noel Lee could not be reached Friday, but a spokesman said, "The fact that the election has been pushed back presupposes that the computer problem has been cleared up and that things will proceed as planned tomorrow." He said everything was also "in place for elections next week."

The postponement of the voting represents a serious embarrassment for the electoral office and Lee in particular, who has come in for harsh criticism from the JLP over recent weeks. The JLP has charged that thousands of names have been left off the list because of inefficiency and possible fraud at the electoral office. Lee, whose office is directed by an independent advisroy committee which includes two representatives from the JLP, has vehemently denied the charge.

Meanwhile, Carlysle Dunkley, campaign director for the governing Peoples National Party (PNP), expressed continued confidence in the electoral office.

"We are satisfied that firm arrangements are in place for the polls," Dunkley said late Friday.

Security Forces Vote Day Late Following 'Foul-Up'

FL2803234293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1932 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 28, CANA—Members of Jamaica's security forces were voting in general elections Saturday, a day late, following Friday's foul-up that caused a postponement of the poll.

Police and soldiers should normally have voted four days ahead of other Jamaicans, who are to cast their ballots Tuesday. But what officials say were computer problems that caused a delay in the printing of the register, forced the electoral office to call off the poll Friday afternoon.

Elections here are overseen by the Electoral Advisory Commitee, made up of two members each from the two major political parties—the People's National Party and the Jamaica Labour Party—and three independent members including the chairman, appointed by the governor general. The decision to postpone Friday's vote followed a meeting of the committee.

The minister responsible for electoral matters, Seymour Mullings, signed an order allowing the security officers to vote Saturday. Electoral officials said they had overcome the problems and voting by police and soldiers in urban centre appeared to be taking place smoothly.

An estimated 6,000 persons were registered to cast their ballots Friday out of the 20,000 members of the security forces, including the Army and police and their auxilaries. Friday's foul-up provided ammunition to the opposition Jamaica Labour Party, which has complained about the electoral register.

The JLP is questioning the legality of the decision to postpone Friday's poll of soldiers and policemen.

"The law does not provide for them to vote (Saturday)," opposition leader Edward Seaga said late Friday. "Legal questions will now arise." Seaga said the postponement indicated that preparations for next Tuesday's general elections were in a state of chaos and that the electoral office would not be ready.

A spokesman for the elections office said: "The fact that the election has been pushed back presupposes that the computer problem has been cleared up and that things will proceed as planned...." He said everything was also "in place for elections next week."

The postponement of the elections represents a serious embarrassment for the electoral office. The JLP has charged that thousands of names have been left off the list because of inefficiency and possible fraud at the electoral office. Electoral officials denied the charge. Meanwhile, Carlysle Dunkley, campaign director for the People's National Party, expressed continued confidence in the electoral office.

"We are satisfied that firm arrangements are in place for the polls," Dunkley said late Friday.

Three Killed in Election-Related Violence

FL2903010593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1917 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 28, CANA—A policeman and an electoral returning officer were among three persons killed here on Saturday in two election-related incidents ahead of next Tuesday's general election. The policeman, Rupert St. Clare, was apparently shot in error by soldiers who had gone to search the campaign office of Ernie Smith, the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) candidate in the Northwest St. Ann constituency. Another man was killed and a woman injured in that incident.

The murder of Dennis Brooks, returning officer for the Central St. Catherine constituency, seemed to have been politically-motivated and brought a sharp condemnation from the JLP. The party suggested Brooks was murdered by supporters of the governing Peoples National Party (PNP). Prime Minister P.J. Patterson expressed "profound regret" over Brooks' death. He called for a full investigation and for the murderers to be brought to justice.

The Central St. Catherine contituency, a major urban centre outside Kingston, like the inner-city areas of the capital, is among the island's most politically volatile. In this election, the area is being contested by sitting member and JLP chairman, Bruce Golding, and Clinton "Jingles" Davey, a bejewelled, rough-and-tumble politician on behalf of the PNP.

Police have not yet disclosed the circumstances around Saturday's incidents, but the JLP said Brooks was killed after being harassed and threatened. The JLP said Brooks, while conducting a class for presiding officers and poll clerks for the constituency earlier in the day, had to be rescued by police from an unruly mob. He was attacked by three men and shot dead Saturday night.

In the St. Ann incident, a security patrol had gone to the JLP office to conduct a search when a fracas apparently developed and shooting started. One radio news report suggested St. Clare, said to be a bodyguard of the JLP candidate, was reaching for his police identification card when soldiers thought he was attempting to draw a gun and fired.

More on Election Violence

FL2903012693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2018 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 28, CANA—Karl Samuda, ruling People's National Party (PNP) candidate for North Central St. Andrew in Tuesday's general election, is to appear in court on April 20 to answer charges relating to an alleged assault on an opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) constituency executive member.

Samuda should have appeared in court last week, but the hearing was aborted after lawyers agreed that a summons had been improperly served on Samuda.

Delafield Adams, member of the JLP's North Central St. Andrew constituency executive, claims that he was beaten up by Samuda outside the PNP constituency office on nomination day, March 12. Adams claims that as a result of the assault a swelling developed on the side of his face.

Samuda has denied assaulting Adams whom he said should be prosecuted for public mischief.

Several persons including a policeman were injured outside the PNP office following a clash between rival party supporters on nomination day. Both the PNP and the JLP blamed each other for the incident.

Samuda, the sitting member of Parliament for the constituency, is a former JLP junior minister who switched allegiances early last year after falling out with the JLP hierachy. He was one of the "Gang of Five" who fell out of grace with the JLP executive three years ago, for openly questioning the leadership style of party leader Edward Seaga.

The other members of the "Gang," Pearnel Charles, Edmund Bartlett, Douglas Vaz, and Errol Anderson have been rehabilitated by the party and are contesting Tuesday's election on behalf of the JLP.

JLP Leader Seaga Comments on Violence

FL2903021993 Bridgetown CANA in English 2155 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 28, CANA—Two days before Jamaicans vote in general elections and with a new opinion poll showing him destined to remain on the opposition benches, Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) leader Edward Seaga maintained that Tuesday's election is too close to call.

Seaga also repeated claims that the governing People's National Party (PNP) and renegade members of the security forces could unleash violence over the next two days to intimidate voters in marginal constituencies. He pointed to the killing of a returning officer and a police guard of a JLP candidate as a possible signal of the start of "terrorism."

Since going on the hustings more than a month ago, the JLP has argued the general election would be a close contest despite the findings of the surveys.

"At this point in time, we still maintain it is going to be a close race," Seaga told journalists here Sunday. "I can think of no election in which I have been involved with, in which there are so many marginal seats," he added. "....When there are so many seats to be won or lost marginally, any number can play."

Seaga's comments came as a poll, published by the SUNDAY HERALD newspaper, forecast that the PNP would win the election, taking up to 44 of the 60 parliamentary seats. The poll, commissioned by the HERALD and Radio Jamaica (RJR) was conducted by Don Anderson of Market Research Limited. It gave the PNP 53.5 percent of the popular vote against 46.5 percent for the JLP. According to Anderson, the PNP had 28 "safe" seats against seven seats for the JLP.

The pollster, however, pointed out there were 25 marginal constituencies—those where the gaps between the parties are less than 10 percent—but 16 of these were tilting towards the PNP and nine towards the JLP.

The Anderson findings came a week after a poll supervised by Rosie Stone, widow of the renowned pollster Professor Carl Stone, showed the JLP narrowing the gap on the PNP. Among the electorate as a whole, it showed the PNP leading the JLP by four points—38 percent to 34 percent, with 28 percent undecided.

The Anderson poll dealt with only persons who had decided to vote, and like the Rosie Stone-supervised poll, said the JLP had narrowed the gap between itself and the PNP.

In the past, polls conducted by Carl Stone were yardsticks by which opinion surveys were judged. Stone's phenomenal accuracy in calling elections here made him unchallengeable in the field and provided his findings with a stamp of authority. But with the death, according to Seaga, "of the guru" a month ago, other pollsters were "seeking a place in the sun." This provided the opposition leader with a basis to question the accuracy and/or interpretation of the Anderson findings. Seaga dismissed suggestions that his projection of a close election was an accommodation to defeat and to cry fraud in the event of a PNP victory.

"If you call the election with confidence with so many marginal seats, you are a fool," he said. "I am not a fool."

Seaga, prime minister from 1980 to 1989, said many, many sitting members of Parliament would find themselves under pressure as the issue of representation was one that he had found of some importance in the campaign. To the extent that the PNP had more sitting members than the JLP, the governing party would find itself under more pressure, he suggested.

The opposition leader also said that despite the PNP attempt to have the election turn on leadership style, "bread and butter issues" such as the cost of living, jobs, transportation, water, and security he found to be foremost in the minds of the electorate.

"We found ourselves dealing with the people's agenda," he said.

Amidst heightened tension following Saturday's murder of Dennis Brooks, the electoral returning officer for the Central St. Catherine constituency and the shooting to death by soldiers of Police Constable Rupert St. Clare, Seaga raised questions about whether this was the start of serious violence in what has until now, been a relatively peaceful campaign. The former prime minister has in campaign speeches predicted that in the last few days before the election, there would be violence to intimidate his party's supporters in marginal constituencies.

The JLP claimed there was a special squad of 50 policemen who had been organised to create "official terrorism," and said he had brought attention to this in the hope that this election would be the first election in recent times when security forces did not play a role in determining the outcome. While the party had in the past "slugged it out" between themselves, the murder of the returning officer indicated that electoral officials were now targetted, he said

"Part of the game is who can beat up the referee. We are not part of that," Seaga declared.

Belize

Government, Guatemala To Cooperate on Border Crime

FL2903010093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1742 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, March 28, CANA—Belizean and Guatemalan authorities have agreed to cooperate more closely in efforts to control and stamp out illegal logging operations along their common border, the government-run Belize Information Service (BIS) reported. The announcement was made following investigations, which found that logs were being felled in the Peten Territory of Guatemala and were being transported over the border to to a logging camp in northern Belize.

The government statement said the investigations also established that the illegal logging operations were being carried out by civilian bandits," but no evidence was produced to indicate involvement by the Guatemalan security forces.

A government spokesman said a letter opposition leader Manuel Esquivel sent to Prime Minister George Price in which he described the illegal logging operation as an aggressive act by Guatemala, was "inflammatory and devoid of any factual basis. It is in the interest of both governments to stop the illegal cutting of trees in the forest which affects the national heritage and ecology of both countries," the BIS statement said. It added: "The government of Belize is taking firm action on its own territory to prevent any such illegal activity and welcomes similar action by the Guatemalan Government...."

Commonwealth Secretary General Begins Visit

FL2603160493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1513 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, March 26, CANA—Commonwealth secretary-general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, is paying an official two-day working visit to Belize. Chief Anyaoku, who is visiting this former British colony for the first time since becoming secretary general two and a half years ago, arrived Thursday [25 March] afternoon.

He was scheduled Friday to call on Governor-General Dame Minita Gordon and meet with Prime Minister George Price, Foreign Minister Said Musa, and other government ministers to discuss what he said were matters of Commonwealth concern.

"Overall, my visit is reaffirmation of the interest of all the Commonwealth in the standing of Belize internationally. The issue of Belize's national independence and security have remained matters of concern to the Commonwealth and my being here is a reflection of that degree of support," he said.

Other matters up for discussion are basic commodities which Belize exports to Europe and other parts of the world. Chief Anyaoku is also expected to discuss ways how Commonwealth technical assistance could be enlisted for socio-economic development purposes in Belize as well as arrangements for the next heads of government meeting in Cyprus.

The Commonwealth secretary general is accompanied on his two day working visit to Belize by Dr. Ursula Barrow, the assistant director of the international affairs division at the Commonwealth Secretariat and Lorna McLaren, the secretary general's executive secretary. He leaves the country Saturday morning.

Costa Rica

Foreign Minister on Security Measures at Embassies

PA2603132793 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Report by correspondent William Cespedes]

[Text] Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus will meet on 25 March with members of the diplomatic corps, including the dean of the diplomatic corps. Foreign Minister Niehaus will explain the actions the government will be implementing and the measures that each embassy must take to guarantee their security. These security measures are the result of the 8 March occupation of the Nicaraguan Embassy.

The government reiterated its compliance with the Vienna Convention and stressed that it provides security to the embassies within the limitations and capabilities of the Civil Guard. It warned, however, that in the case of countries facing internal political conflicts, the embassies will have to adopt additional security measures:

[Begin Niehaus recording] The Costa Rican Government is aware of its international commitments and will not evade its responsibilities, which are clearly stipulated in the Vienna Convention, particularly in Article 22 of that important international treaty. That article in Clause 2 says that the host country is specifically responsible for adopting adequate measures to protect embassy buildings against destruction, damage, and so forth. This is a commitment, as Costa Rica is a signatory of the Vienna Convention.

At the same time, however, I would like to stress that the best security a state can offer depends on its domestic security; in other words, the conditions that prevail in a given country have an effect on the security of the diplomats in a host country. The best way for Costa Rica to guarantee the security of diplomatic missions in the country is to maintain the climate of peace, cordiality, and social peace that has traditionally prevailed in Costa Rican society. [end recording]

Niehaus said the Supreme Court of Justice has officially requested the extradition of Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, who headed the Yolaina Commando that occupied the Nicaraguan Embassy for 14 days. The extradition request will be channeled through the Costa Rican Embassy in Santo Domingo and the Dominican Foreign Ministry. The Supreme Court of Justice in that Caribbean nation will

make a decision based on the Bustamante Code, which could result in Urbina Lara's extradition to our country to face trial for the crimes he committed based on the charges filed by the Prosecutor General's Office.

Costa Rica Requests Urbina Lara's Extradition

PA2703170193 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice has requested Urbina Lara's extradition. Foreign Relations Minister Bernd Niehaus announced the Supreme Court requested the extradition of Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, leader of the Yolaina Command Unit, in a note sent to the Foreign Ministry. The request will be channeled as soon as possible through the Costa Rican Embassy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in accordance with legal obligations established by relations between the Supreme Courts.

Niehaus said the Supreme Court's petition does not include Guillermo Porto, the other Nicaraguan who traveled to Dominican Republic with Urbina Lara.

The Foreign Ministry is considering the possibility of asking the Dominican Government to place Urbina Lara under preventive arrest, while the Supreme Court processes the extradition request. President Rafael Calderon stated this situation will be solved according to advice from the Foreign Ministry lawyers because it involves technical and judicial aspects.

Foreign Minister Niehaus said the situation will also depend on the status the Dominican Government grants Urbina Lara, the result of the request for his preventive arrest, and his subsequent extradition.

The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry has invoked the Bustamante Code to request the extradition of Urbina Lara, who headed the Yolaina Commando that occupied the Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica for 14 days.

Although there are international laws applicable to this extradition case, Urbina Lara is also covered by benefits contained in the same Bustamante Code. According to experts in international law, Urbina Lara could prevent his preventive arrest and even his extradition by requesting political asylum. The possibilities that Urbina Lara's extradition request will advance will depend to a large extent on the Dominican Government's political willingness. In the opinion of international law experts, should the Dominican Government decide not to implement the Bustamante Code, Urbina Lara will not be extradited. There is no law stating the state receiving an asylum seeker must necessarily proceed with the extradition, especially if he is granted political asylum.

El Salvador

Supreme Court Rejects Truth Commission Report

PA2603191093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1755 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Supreme Court of Justice of El Salvador on 26 March officially rejected the Truth Commission report on war crimes that calls for the resignation of its 14 magistrates.

In a lengthy report prepared by the Supreme Court that was read to the media, the magistrates said the international commission has been "blinded by its arrogance," and it is interested in "marring the image of our administration of justice" and, specifically, Supreme Court President Mauricio Gutierrez Castro.

The Truth Commission pointed out in its report that the president of the Salvadoran Supreme Court acted "unprofessionally" when he hindered judicial investigations of several political crimes committed during the Salvadoran war.

Reasons for Court Rejection

PA2603212993 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Report by Jose Someta]

[Text] Supreme Court of Justice magistrates on 26 March officially presented their rejection of the Truth Commission report. In a 12-page document, the Supreme Court of Justice states that the Truth Commission report contains a series of conclusions and recommendations that are detrimental to the management of justice in El Salvador.

The Supreme Court of Justice declaration states that the Truth Commission acted with obvious partiality because it omits the truth concerning the death of 28 judicial branch judges and does not mention the attacks on Dr. Mauricio Gutierrez Castro.

[Begin recording, Magistrate Mauricio Alfredo Clara] The Truth Commission report does not outline specific charges that objectively prove and justify before the national and international communities the commission's drastic and slanderous recommendation that the Supreme Court of Justice magistrates resign from their posts.

We cannot but recall that most of the cases in which the commission negatively charges the Supreme Court of Justice and its president with mismanagement of justice are cases that have been rejected before he was sworn in to his post, meaning before July 1989. [end recording]

Magistrate Clara read the declaration and said: When magistrates are sworn in to their posts, they pledge to abide by and enforce the laws of the Republic. Hence, they will accept no conclusions or recommendations that violate the laws and the Constitution.

[Begin Clara recording] We reassert to the Salvadoran people and the world that our pledge, when sworn in to our posts, is to be faithful to the Republic and abide by and enforce the Constitution, regardless of laws, decrees, orders, or resolutions that contradict it. Therefore, we cannot allow for ourselves or any other person any conclusion or recommendation that contradicts the Constitution.

5, [as heard] We state that the conclusions and recommendations included in the report issued by the Truth Commission for El Salvador and aimed at the judicial branch

overlook the legitimate and permanent interests of the homeland and critically jeopardize the independence of judges, who must always be free from any type of political pressure. [end recording]

The declaration was read to the media at the Supreme Court of Justice, but reporters were not allowed to ask the Supreme Court of Justice magistrates any questions.

Further Comments by Supreme Court

PA2703044193 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice plenum on 26 March rejected the Truth Commission report, which recommended that all the justices of this high tribunal resign. According to the Supreme Court, that document is harmful to the country, particularly to the administration of justice.

[Begin Justice Mauricio Clara recording, broadcast in progress] ...strongly reject the Truth Commission report's conclusions and recommendations against the administration of justice in El Salvador in general, and against the Supreme Court of Justice and its president in particular. [end recording]

That is how the Supreme Court of Justice plenum on 26 March rejected the Truth Commission report and recommendations, which accused the Supreme Court of obstructing justice, among other things.

In the official document read by Justice Mauricio Clara, the justices said the Truth Commission made recommendations that are detrimental to the country's judicial system.

[Begin Clara recording] The report issued by the Truth Commission for El Salvador contains conclusions and recommendations that hurt the dignity of the administration of justice in El Salvador in general and that particularly affect Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice.

In that sense,the Commission assumed a truly unjust position, blinded by its arrogant attitude. This is due, in part, to an attempt to harm the image of our administration of justice and the officials in charge of imparting it. [end recording]

The justices maintain that the Truth Commission report is a political document that has no grounds in Salvadoran law or international treaties.

[Begin Clara recording] The report is a political agreement between two clearly defined parties and with a specific purpose. It cannot be allowed to subvert the order established by the Constitution, international treaties, and the current Salvadoran laws. [end recording]

The Court stressed that its official position will be made known to the majority of Supreme Courts in Latin America and some European countries in order to clarify the internal situation of judicial authorities with respect to the Commission's report, which has been rejected by the various government branches in general terms.

Cristiani on U.S. Reaction To Truth Commission Report

PA2703033693 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Report by Guillermo Rivera]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani on 26 March visited Soyapango, where he met with Mayor Jorge Vasquez Corena and offered aid to rebuild the marketplace. The president also made some statements about local and international reaction to the Truth Commission report. Cristiani also referred to the amnesty issued on 20 March and to the Armed Forces' rejection of the Truth Commission report. He also spoke about investigations that are reportedly being carried out by U.S. officials. Cristiani did not expand on certain issues and ignored several questions from the media. He specifically said the amnesty does not affect the human rights situation or the government's international agreements on that issue.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] We said from the beginning that the government would concentrate on the recommendations, and we said that any individual, group, or government agency that feels affected in any way has every right to state its opinion. The Defense Ministry requested our authorization to hold an officers' meeting because they wanted to state their views as a corps. All we did was authorize them to issue a statement on behalf of the military corps and to state their views about the report as such. That is all we have done. Other groups have also stated their views.

[Unidentified reporter] Was the amnesty approved without taking into consideration observations [words indistinct] constitution from every viewpoint?

[Cristiani] It was analyzed. We requested a study of the case, and the experts' recommendation indicated there was no problem. The judges will decide who has the right to amnesty and who does not, but in general terms, the discussion was about government officials involved in crimes against the Constitution rather than political crimes or related crimes. In other words, we did not feel there would be any problem with the amnesty as such. I repeat: The judicial branch is in charge of enforcing the law, and the judges will decide who will receive amnesty and who will not.

[Reporter] Article 2 of the Constitution says the government must guarantee the citizens' safety, welfare, and lives.

[Cristiani] The amnesty law involves none of the above. The government will always try to guarantee every citizen's safety. I do not see why the amnesty should jeopardize that.

[Reporter] Mr. President, [words indistinct] U.S. State Department appointed a commission to investigate high-ranking Armed Forces officers and Farabundo Marti

National Liberation Front members mentioned in the Truth Commission report. What is your opinion? Do you think the U.S. State Department is meddling [words indistinct] general amnesty?

[Cristiani] I understand that this does not involve a new report or investigation; it is only an analysis of events involving U.S. citizens. The country has signed various international accords and conventions, and one specifically involves protection for diplomatic officials. That convention is a law of the Republic. The judges will have to analyze it and decide if it is applicable.

[Reporter] Referring to the UN secretary general's request [words indistinct]. Does that overrule the decision to decree an amnesty in our country?

[Cristiani] No. No one will violate Salvadoran laws.

[Reporter] The U.S. Government said it is studying legal procedures to open a trial against the military personnel named in the Truth Commission report. Can they do that? Can they send our military personnel and civilians to trial?

[Cristiani] Our Constitution forbids the government to extradite a Salvadoran citizen. In other words, we cannot accept a request to extradite Salvadoran citizens. We believe there are international conventions to decide who can be given amnesty and who cannot. We also have our own laws and constitutional rights. The country is sovereign and our laws will be respected.

[Reporter] The U.S. President [words indistinct] our country after the Truth Commission report was revealed. Why so much interest?

[Cristiani] I am not aware of all the reports. The official report we received said there is concern about the individuals protected by international laws. Much has been said about other cases, although they have nothing to do with this. We do not know what the U.S. Government wants to do about this. It has simply stated its concern about them, and we have said the amnesty law does not affect the international rights the government has pledged to respect. The judges will determine who has the right to amnesty and who does not according to our current laws. [end recording]

Those were the statements by President Alfredo Cristiani during his visit to the industrial city of Soyapango. He also said his decision about the defense minister's resignation and replacement will be revealed in a matter of weeks. Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce resigned a few days ago, but we do not know whether the president will accept his resignation.

Anticommunist Army Rejects Truth Commission Report

PA2603142393 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 24 Mar 93 p 2

[Communique issued by the Secret Anticommunist Army, ESA; place and date not given]

[Text] We report to our country the position we have adopted concerning the report from the so-called "Truth Commission." We had not publicized our position because we wanted to study the report and learn more about the position adopted by other groups.

We have reached a conclusion and we state the following:

I. The report lacks credibility, clearly revealing its biased position and interest in discrediting and destroying the country's institutions, and interest in attacking the institutions that have always defended our noble people—the Armed Forces, the Judicial Branch, etc.—and holding them responsible for the war and its results.

II. It is evident that this is the result of a plan that involves the participation of the U.S. Embassy; the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]; the oligarchy; and, unfortunately, some harmful citizens who work within the government and the Armed Forces.

III. Politicians must act in a responsible way and stop gaining personal benefits from the current situation.

IV. A true national reconciliation is possible through the approval of a general, unconditional, and absolute amnesty. The Legislative Branch took a very important step by approving an amnesty because this greatly helps achieve that ultimate goal.

V. The role played by the government and its negotiating commission, and the critical errors they made, have resulted in **damage and lack of respect for our country.**

VI. The Armed Forces played a positive role in the search for peace by acting in a responsible and disciplined way and by cooperating and subordinating themselves to the government and other state branches. It is also true the Armed Forces contributed to this difficult but necessary process; however, it does not mean they had to go to the extremes some of the Armed Forces representatives went to—endangering their existence in the short-term.

It is sad to admit that Armed Forces Commander General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas and his adviser, Gen. Ismael Machuca, cooperated with the FMLN (Joaquin Villalobos revealed this is a news conference) by assisting in the compilation of the list of officers who should be purged. Knowing both of these officers' special record on human rights violations and illegal acquisition of riches, it is illogical that they did not appear in the list of military officers to be purged.

Therefore, the ESA has already formed a "Justice Commission" that will deal strictly with all the persons or institutions that want to continue discrediting our homeland. We know this is not a good position, but we consider it necessary and adequate. Before these persons or institutions act against the country and its citizens, they must bear in mind that there is now an organization that will peremptorily enforce justice, publicly recognize any action carried out, and be willing to face the consequences resulting from its actions.

Commentary on Pressure To Comply With Recommendations

PA2703141993 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Never before has the government faced so much international pressure than now, following a Truth Commission investigation into the most serious atrocities that occurred during the last decade. The pressure is directed exclusively at getting the Army and the Supreme Court of Justice to comply with the recommendations. The Armed Forces High Command and the Supreme Court, however, have responded by disregarding the report and discrediting the members of the commission, headed by former Colombian President Belisario Betancur.

In contrast, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front is not facing criticism from the international community because its leaders have accepted the charges and announced they will comply as long as everyone else submits to the commission's recommendations. The government's decision to grant amnesty to all those involved in the serious crimes that stunned the Salvadorans have aroused concern within the Clinton administration. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on 24 March that they will investigate the soldiers and even release classified documents from the Reagan and Bush administrations, despite the amnesty. Many cases could be cleared up if the documents are released. Locally, the Clinton administration's conduct is seen as interventionist. It would seem that we wish to deny that the United States has had its hands in El Salvador since 1980.

In conclusion, the Cristiani Government must take a stance. It must decide to comply with the commission's recommendations, which punish only a few people, or sacrifice the U.S. aid that benefits business and the population in general.

Gen. Vargas Comments on Withdrawal of U.S. Advisers

PA2703202393 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas said on the morning of 27 March that the withdrawal of U.S. military advisers from Salvadoran Armed Forces barracks and positions has taken place due to a reorganization of this military institution, not for any other reason.

Leftist political sectors stated in recent hours that the Salvadoran Armed Forces ordered the withdrawal of U.S. advisers from barracks throughout the country due to disagreement with U.S. pressure.

Gen. Vargas said the action was a result of administrative work.

[Begin Vargas recording] Our constitutional mission has been reduced, basically, to the task of defending the sovereignty of the state, of the Republic, at the discretion of the president. For this reason we have to review our training programs. During the insurgency period, the Armed Forces units received training to fight insurgents. If there is no insurgency, there is no sense in conducting that kind of training program. This has to be reviewed by the staff, the Military Doctrines Command, and the Armed Forces Military Training Center. The three are responsible for training programs. It is through them that we will prepare and report training policies, guidelines, and study programs of the Armed Forces. [end recording]

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in this capital stated the reduction of the advisers was to be expected. During the war, the U.S. Congress approved the presence of 55 U.S. officers in El Salvador. During the peace process, this group was reduced to approximately half that number. Now that field activities have concluded, the spokesman said, the activities of the U.S. advisers have been centered in the cities.

Cristiani Denies Opposition Claim of Duality of Power

PA2803004893 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 26 Mar 93 p 1

[Unattributed article]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani on 26 March said "the opinion expressed by the Armed Forces on 23 March, regarding the Truth Commission report, was authorized by the government following a request by the Armed Forces. Therefore, there is no duality of power as has been expressed by opposition sectors."

"I believe that the institution has a right to set out its position on the report. The government role is to put Salvadoran society on the road to reconciliation. The same chapter of the report mentions the word reconciliation at least 20 times. Therefore, we want to find in the recommendations everything that will strengthen the Salvadoran family."

Cristiani stressed: "Previously, I said that individuals or institutions were free to express their opinion on the report. One cannot only listen to the opinion of the opposition groups, everyone must be heard. We are living in a democracy, there is freedom and everyone has a right to it. I repeat that the Armed Forces requested authorization to express its opinion and we believe it is fair that they express the institution's own point of view on the report."

With regard to the amnesty—the approval of which even UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said was a matter of concern—Cristiani said: "I believe that we cannot allow the wounds to be opened later looking for a pardon. If we are going to look for a pardon without opening any more wounds, I believe now is the time. We cannot lose time in our country with recriminations. I believe the time has come for us to look to the future, for all of us to work together to develop and build a better El Salvador."

With regard to the report the government will present to the United Nations on the Armed Forces purge suggested by the Ad Hoc Commission, Cristiani said the report has not been presented yet because in conversations with the UN secretary general, Butrus-Ghali said he first wanted to hear an opinion on the Truth Commission recommendations. Therefore, the government is waiting to present both positions within the time limit given by Mr. Butrus-Ghali, which is next week.

Arena Proclaims Armando Calderon Sol Presidential Candidate

PA2803222793 Paris AFP in Spanish 2021 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Article by Carlos Mario Marquez]

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Mar (AFP)—San Salvador Mayor Armando Calderon Sol on 28 March was proclaimed Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) presidential candidate for the 1994 elections. This proclamation was made during a national convention attended by thousands of party members. The event was held at the National Gymnasium in the Salvadoran capital and was chaired by President Alfredo Cristiani and the Arena National Executive Committee.

Departmental representatives unanimously proclaimed the candidacy of Armando Calderon, a 45-year-old lawyer from San Salvador who is married and father of two children. A small plane overflew the capital with a sign saying "Calderon Sol, President 94," while those present at the gymnasium shouted slogans such as: "Fatherland yes, communism no."

After thanking his fellow party members for nominating him, Calderon Sol said he would continue to implement the nationalist concept, which a group of Salvadorans, inspired by the late Mayor Roberto D'Aubuisson, established in the trilogy: "God, fatherland, and freedom."

Calderon said the nationalist ideology "is not an imported one" such as that of the other parties, which are "statists, socialist democrats, antihistoric communists, or Christian democrats." Calderon said the great challenge for Arena is to prepare El Salvador to face the challenges of the 21st century for which "a change of attitude, a change of mentality, and change of focus is needed to achieve human, social, economic, and political development in the country." Calderon believes "consolidating peace" by promoting "economic progress and strengthening actions for the neediest" is his duty.

Meanwhile, President Cristiani told the media this Sunday's gathering "shows the strength" of Arena, which started its journey to "victory" on this day. In the next two months Arena will elect Calderon's vice presidential running mate.

The official presidential candidate started his political life on 30 September 1981 when D'Aubuisson founded Arena with the financial support of prominent businessmen and large landowners. Calderon served as deputy in the congress between 1985-88 and became bloc leader. He won the San Salvador mayoralty in 1988 over the son of late President Jose Napoleon Duarte. Calderon retained the mayoralty in 1991 by an overwhelming margin over the Christian Democratic Party.

Calderon has been Cristiani's closest adviser since the latter assumed the presidency in 1989. Calderon was at Cristiani's side during the last phase of the counterinsurgency war and the negotiations to end 12 years of civil war.

The general elections will take place on a yet undetermined date in March 1994. The former guerrillas, who formed a party called the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, will participate for the first time.

FMLN Leader on Missile Destruction in Nicaragua

PA2703141693 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] confirmed the destruction of 12 surface-to-air missiles in Nicaragua, which were used during the Salvadoran civil war. Leonel Gonzalez, former rebel commander, stated the destruction of this sophisticated weaponry is in response to recent events in El Salvador, such as the resignation of General Juan Orlando Zepeda as deputy minister of defense effective 1 April. The Nicaraguan Army has reportedly destroyed the FMLN missiles.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] We understand that on 25 March a government envoy presented a proposal for the purging of the remaining 15 Army officers. We are also aware that Gen. Zepeda is retiring, although he was supposed to do so on 1 March. We had about 12 missiles yet to destroy. Some of these 12 missiles, which were under the control of the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal], will be destroyed in Nicaragua on 26 March. The Nicaraguan authorities will destroy them and Onusal will verify the operation. There are about 12 missiles remaining, which are under UN control. They will remain there, pending the UN secretary general's reaction to President Cristiani's proposal, which his envoy has taken to New York. We have been informed the United Nations will be present to verify the destruction and the authorities will be responsible for destroying the weaponry.

[Unidentified reporter] Why will they be destroyed in Nicaragua and not here?

[Gonzalez] It depends on their location. The missiles that are in this country will be destroyed here and, of course, those that are in Nicaragua will be destroyed in Nicaragua. [end recording]

The surrender and destruction of the missiles will be verified by Onusal observers, the FMLN, Nicaraguan Army officers, and representatives of the U.S. Embassies in Managua and San Salvador. In 1991, the Nicaraguan Army arrested three Nicaraguan soldiers and 11 Salvadoran citizens in connection with the illegal sale of 28

Soviet-made SAM-7 and SAM-14 missiles to the FMLN. Some of these missiles were returned to Nicaragua that same year.

Guatemala

Government, URNG Agree on Civilian Participation Mechanism

PA2803172093 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] On 27 March Guatemalan Government representatives and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) High Command approved a mechanism allowing for the participation of civilian sectors in the peace negotiation process.

According to the CERIGUA News Agency, Peace Conciliator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno disclosed to the media on 27 March that he is preparing to summon a forum in which all civilian sectors interested in the Guatemalan peace process will be allowed to participate.

All civilian sectors will be allowed to prepare documents on initiatives based on the points included in the negotiation agenda. The conciliator explained the initiatives will be presented for evaluation to each of the parties involved in the negotiation one week before each meeting.

The prelate explained representatives from all sectors will be allowed to participate in the meetings in order to explain and expand on their respective positions, but will not be allowed to be present during the actual negotiation process.

Opposing Positions on Commission Investigating Past Events

Conciliator Quezada Toruno disclosed that progress had not been accomplished regarding the investigation of past events because of opposing positions on the faculties, composition, and transitory nature of the "commission of the past."

Therefore, the creation of a commission to investigate human rights violations perpetrated within the framework of the armed internal conflict in Guatemala is still pending.

According to CERIGUA, the government and the URNG are discussing issues still pending at the two parallel negotiating tables. The first table is discussing issues related to the investigation commission that will inquire into human rights violations committed during the past 30 years of armed conflict. The second table is discussing a commitment document that includes the participation of civilian sectors, globalizing the agenda, and scheduled meetings.

The first table, which is moderated by Msgr. Juan Gerardi, includes URNG Commanders Pablo Monsanto and Carlos Gonzalez, as well as diplomatic-political advisers Miguel Angel Sandoval and Francisco Villagran. Government representatives include Generals Mario Enriquez and Carlos Pineda, in addition to Presidential Adviser Amilcar Burgos.

The second negotiating table, which is moderated by Msgr. Quezada, is formed by government delegates Gen. Julio Balconi and Gen. Marco Antonio Gonzalez, as well as Manuel Conde Orellano as head of the delegation, Presidential Adviser Ernesto Viteri, and Labor Deputy Minister Carlos Contreras. The URNG delegation includes Commanders Rolando Moran and Gaspar Ilom, as well as political-diplomatic advisers Luis Beker and Luz Mendez, in addition to adviser Mario Castaneda.

Group Terms Government-Guerrilla Decision 'Positive'

PA2903002593 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2308 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Coordinating Board of Civilian Groups [Coordinadora de Sectores Civiles], CSC, has described as "positive" the decision made by the government and the guerrillas to allow its participation in the negotiation process through a permanent forum.

The Guatemalan Government and guerrillas agreed in Mexico to convene a forum that would allow the Guatemalan civilian society to submit its proposals, Bishop Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, mediator in the peace negotiations, reported on 28 March.

According to Byron Morales, CSC representative and secretary of the Labor and Popular Action Union (UASP), this could be the Guatemalan society's opportunity to have some influence in the negotiations. Morales denied that the CSC's intention is to become a third active member at the negotiating table as the government delegation has stated on several occasions. "We simply want our proposals heard and we want the government and the guerrillas to listen to them," said the labor union leader, who has been threatened with death. Morales and 20 others have been threatened by unidentified individuals who have accused them of favoring the Guatemalan guerrillas.

The CSC has insisted on the need to meet with the parties to discuss topics such as the ethnic and land distribution problems, which are on the negotiation agenda. The civilian segments of the population gathered together in the CSC rejected the initial agreement to meet freely with the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity], but "outside the framework of the negotiations," as Quezada pointed out upon his return from Mexico on 20 March. For them, to accept this condition "would be tantamount to a death sentence" because of the degree of intolerance and repression prevailing in the country. "As soon as I arrive in Guatemala I will call a permanent forum to ensure participation in the dialogue by civilians whose duties have been defined already by both parties," Quezada said. He explained this initiative, which was approved by both parties, "seeks to channel proposals of interested parties to contribute to and enrich the negotiation process."

On the night of 27 March, the topic of civilian sector participation in the Guatemalan peace process was exhaustively studied by Guatemalan Government representatives, headed by Manuel Conde Orellana, and URNG leaders. The government and the URNG, currently meeting in Mexico, are discussing the signing of a human rights agreement and a peace process schedule to end the internal armed confrontation. The Guatemalan armed strife is the oldest in Central America and the only one that prevails in the region.

The negotiators basically have discussed matters they left pending on 20 May [the date they ended the previous peace process talks]. Among the pending matters is the Truth Commission; a point that has to be discussed prior to reaching a human rights agreement that is to be immediately implemented with international verification.

In this sense, the parties do not agree fully on the position that is to be afforded to the UN representative. The Guatemalan Government wants the UN representative to participate as an observer, but the guerrillas demand that he intervene as a member of the Truth Commission.

Presidential Spokesman Muniz Submits Resignation

PA2803171693 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 27 Mar 93 p 3

[Report by Victor Cruz]

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Mar—Presidential spokesman Fernando Muniz submitted his resignation to President Jorge Serrano Elias. During a news conference held at the Public Relations Office in the Presidential Building on 25 March, he reiterated his previous remarks during a forum on the free expression of thought, held at the Retalhuleu Country Club.

Muniz told the few journalists present at the news conference he did say in Retalhuleu that it is the government's duty to respect and protect the freedom of the press. He referred to the press courts, which are inoperative in Guatemala.

Speaking of the journalists' situation, he defended those who work every day at the government building and face so many problems to improve themselves. Muniz said a higher level of education should not be demanded from journalists because they are paid low salaries, do not get overtime pay, and are not permitted to attend the university.

He added that he said these things in Retalhuleu as a concerned citizen and out of sympathy for the journalists and does not regret his remarks. He said he apologizes to anyone who feels offended by his words and that all he did was to defend the rank and file journalists.

Press organizations in general have protested Muniz' stand to the extent that the Board of Directors of the Union of Central American, Panamanian, and Caribbean Female Journalists cancelled the participation of Arturo Hugo Hidalgo, public relations secretary of the Presidency, in a round table to debate the relations between the government, journalists, and the media to be held on 29 March during the third journalists meeting on human rights and journalists' ethics.

Other organizations that objected to Muniz' remarks include: the Union of Parliament Reporters, the Union of Guatemalan Media Workers, the Guatemalan Chamber of Journalists, the National Council for the Defense of the Journalists' Rights, the San Carlos University School of Communication Science, the Guatemalan Republican Front, and the National Liberation Party.

Interior Minister Denies Media Harassment

PA2703131793 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] At a news conference Government Minister Francisco Perdomo denied Guatemalan civilian authorities have been harassing the press, stressing that the government has maintained good relations with reporters.

The Inter-American Press Society (SIP) strongly condemned the harassment of Guatemalan reporters, which was attributed to members of the country's security forces, and urged President Jorge Serrano to give them guarantees to exercise their profession.

Perdomo added: "As the minister in charge of the country's security, I will not let such actions go unpunished and will guarantee freedom of press in the country."

Regarding the opening of the borders between Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras announced by the governments of the three countries, Perdomo said this does not mean the doors are opened to crime. He clarified the police forces will coordinate actions to prevent the introduction of stolen vehicles from one country to another. He added he hopes the opening of the borders between the three countries will contribute to the reduction of corruption at the border posts where various sums of money are currently charged for temporary passes.

Regarding charges made against Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise officials who allegedly used cables belonging to the company for a private enterprise, Perdomo said "if those reports are true, then those responsible should be punished."

He added he expects the investigations by the authorities will yield positive results, and if any officials are involved, they should be punished according to the law.

Asked about the violence registered during the past few days, Perdomo said the government is acting firmly against crime. He added that one of the most positive actions was the frustration of a bus holdup in Esquintla, which resulted in one dead, several arrested, and clues leading to the location of the other criminals who participated in the attack.

Soldier Says Capt. Contreras Gave Order To Murder Devine

PA2703005993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] Discharged soldier Pablo Lajuj Ismalej confirmed during a special hearing and under oath that Captain Hugo Roberto Contreras Alvarado gave the order to kidnap and murder U.S. citizen Michael Devine.

During the court hearing, Lajuj Ismalej stated that on one occasion when the investigation of Devine's death had already started, Capt. Contreras told him that "I am really ashamed, and I am mortified by statements made by Tiul Cucul [not further identified], since you were ill at the time." [sentence as published]

On the other hand, Benjamin Punti Peruch, another person involved in the affair, said he saw Capt. Contreras order Joaquin Alfaro Avelar and Olivicio Orellana to commit the crime.

He pointed out that the white pick-up without license plates that was used to kidnap Devine was brought to Guatemala City to be painted red. Punti stated: "I personally picked it up from the repair shop and drove it back to Peten."

The other two military members involved in the case, Fabian Arevalo de la Cruz and Andres Morente Tipol, stated that although they had intended to be present at the 5 March special hearing, they had not arrived on time. They left the Santa Elena Air Force base in Peten sometime between 6:10 or 6:20 [AM or PM not specified], flown in a circle, and were then ordered to return.

When asked why they were ordered to return, the pilot replied that the flight had been cancelled because the aircraft did not have any windshield wipers or appropriate instruments to allow them to fly into the clouds, which would have made the trip dangerous because of the poor weather.

They were allowed to travel later, but they arrived at the hearing late. Despite that setback they requested to be heard and called for the protection of the Archbishopric's Human Rights Office. The four specialists who have been discharged from the Air Force were being guarded by soldiers and did not make any statements to the press.

Defense Lawyer Dissatisfied

Anibal Fernandez, Capt. Contreras' defense attorney, protested the hearing that took place on 24 March at the Fourth Appeals Court and insisted that the order to furnish more evidence did not empower the court to issue special subpoenas.

Fernandez added that Specialist Laluj Ismalej had contradicted himself during his depositions, which he has been changing for some time. Therefore the aforementioned deposition is fraught with faults, and what has being stated cannot be proven in accordance with Articles 202 and 218 of the second part of the Military Code. Gabriel Orellana Rojas [not further identified] indicated that the private prosecutor of the military members involved in the Devine murder case could be disqualified or suspended temporarily from his duties as notary.

He indicated that the protests made by his colleague Fernandez are based on dispositions included in the Bar Association code of ethics, which states that bar members may not voice opinions on ongoing issues, much less those related to important trials.

Orellana Rojas also indicated that the Defense Ministry had offered its cooperation in protecting the military members who have provided evidence against Capt. Contreras Alvarado.

Honduras

President Reacts To Congress Decision on Military Law Code

PA2603234893 Tegucigalpa Telesistema Hondureno Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Report by Adolfo Hernandez in Olanchito]

[Text] President Callejas spoke on the "This Very Day" newscast. These are his first reactions to two very current topics related to the Armed Forces, of which he is commander in chief. Adolfo Hernandez has the report:

The president made his first statement after Congress' historic interpretation of the Military Code of Laws war codes on 24 March. The president said: We are very happy with that decision.

[Begin Callejas recording] I repeat. This is something that the legislative branch interprets and the judicial branch executes. We, as the executive branch, have the Armed Forces within our institutional structure, and the executive branch and the Armed Forces are very happy with Congress' interpretation. [end recording]

The president, among other things, stated that he does not feel there is a need for a great national debate on the reduction of the Armed Forces budget.

[Begin Callejas recording] The problem is that we have made the Armed Forces budget the subject of a political debate, not an administrative debate. Thus every time we speak of the Armed Forces budget, there are sectors that say we need to shut down the Armed Forces, we need to reduce the budget so we can purchase medicines. All of this pleases the citizens but bears no relationship to reality. The Armed Forces is a vital institution for the citizenry, and what we are now doing is in society's interest, like establishing better mechanisms in the Department of National Investigation. The Armed Forces budget, like all budgets under the executive branch, except for education and health, were reduced. I do not see why that requires a national debate. [end recording]

Those were the president's initial reactions to two important news topics.

Military Agrees With Decision on Military Laws

PA2703161693 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 26 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] The Armed Forces expressed on 25 March their approval of the National Congress' interpretation of Articles 90 and 91. They feel this interpretation defines, once and for all, the jurisdiction between common and military law.

Napoleon Santos Aguilar, Armed Forces spokesman said: "We believe Congress' interpretation of Decree (Articles) 90 and 91, will end a series of problems that were emerging in civil and military courts."

Santos Aguilar labeled the legislative interpretation as positive "from all points of view," stressing that it will "end a number of problems that had been emerging."

According to the military institution's spokesman, that situation was casting doubt on the credibility of the civilian and military courts.

He noted Congress' action would avoid problems that come up due to the definition of the courts jurisdiction.

"This interpretation grants total prerogative to civilian law over military law," he said.

Nevertheless, Santos Aguilar said the Armed Forces is "definitely" against the elimination of the military courts.

Santos Aguilar said: "We believe the military courts should definitely exist," under the Armed Forces jurisdiction.

The military spokesman also spoke out in favor of Congress' decision to appoint a commission to study reforms to the Armed Forces Constitutional Law, the Law of Military Command, and the Military Code.

Santos Aguilar indicated that the armed institution totally agrees that the Military Code is obsolete.

Nicaragua

Alfredo Cesar on Dialogue, Other Issues

PA2603181893 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Interview with Alfredo Cesar, former National Assembly president, by Luis Mora Sanchez, program host, at the Radio Corporacion studios in Managua on the "Topics and Debates" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Mora] Alfredo Cesar is with us. It was reported that U.S. Congressmen Christopher Smith and Bob Livingston suggested the creation of a Commission of Friends of Nicaragua, as Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo called it. It is supposed to be a sort of truth commission for Nicaragua. Mr. Lacayo accepted this proposal in Washington. We would like to know...[pauses] it seems Christopher Smith, sent a message to the National Opposition Union [UNO]. What was the purpose of this message?

[Cesar] Republican Congressman Christopher Smith, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Latin America [title as heard], phoned me at my residence on 19 March at about 1600. Mr. Smith told me he met on 18 March with Minister Lacayo at the minister's request. Smith added that during the meeting Lacayo denied all the charges against the Nicaraguan Government. Congressman Smith said he told Lacayo: Given that the government denies all charges, I recommend the creation of an international commission made up of unquestionable people under the auspices of the OAS and United Nations to confirm the situation in Nicaragua, to verify what has indeed happened, and to find out the truth. This commission should file a report to clear up the serious doubt about the Nicaraguan Government. Congressman Smith told me all of this on the phone.

Smith said Lacayo agreed to this suggestion. After the meeting, Smith invited his colleague Bob Livingston—who occupies an important position because he is member of a committee in the House of Representatives that decides if funds should be disbursed—to send a joint letter to put the verbal proposal in writing. This became public knowledge on 24 March.

Congressman Smith also told me as Lacayo accepted the proposal to create the commission, he contacted the highest ranking officials of the Clinton administration, who welcomed the idea with enthusiasm and offered their support.

Smith said he contacted me to ask me to convey to the UNO Political Council that he and his colleague Livingston wanted to know UNO's opinion about this development. Smith acted in a serious manner because he first made the proposal to the government representative, who answered affirmatively; contacted the Clinton administration, which answered affirmatively; and then called UNO to request the opinion of the country's main opposition force because they already know the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is the ruling party. They know that talking to Lacayo is the same as talking to the FSLN. Thus, he called to request UNO's opinion.

[Mora] [Question indistinct]?

[Cesar] I conveyed this information to the UNO Political Council on 19 March. The UNO Political Council is discussing this matter. On 23 March, Congressman Smith sent a formal letter to the UNO Political Council that reads: Attached is a letter that my colleague Bob Livingston and I handed to Antonio Lacayo recently. This was the letter made public and published by LA PRENSA on the afternoon of 24 March.

As you will see, we proposed the creation of a verification team under the auspices of the United Nations or OAS to investigate serious charges leveled against the Nicaraguan Government. The work of this investigative commission must include a wide array of topics. Some of them are mentioned in the letter we sent to Lacayo.

The letter Christopher Smith sent to the UNO Political Council adds: We would be very pleased to receive the

reaction of the UNO Political Council to the proposed commission. Feel free to maintain contact with me regarding this proposal and any other issue pertaining to the relations between Nicaragua and United States. I thank you in advance for your reply to the idea of creating an investigative commission. Sincerely, Christopher Smith, member of Congress.

[Mora] [Question indistinct]

[Cesar] Yes. Thus, UNO is preparing or finishing the official response it will send to Congressmen Smith and Livingston on UNO's position because, once again, we see how this government lies in a spectacularly cynical manner. It lies in the face of official documents and publications made by very serious people, as are these U.S. congressmen. There is no such Commission of Friends of the Truth here.

The reality here is that the congressmen—and particularly Mr. Smith, who holds one of the most important positions in the House of Representatives...[pauses] in light of the allegations made by UNO, human rights organizations, independent unions, members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], and recently, the additional accusations made by Ibarra, who came here with different kinds of very profound and serious accusations....

[Mora, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[Cesar] These last accusations from Ibarra about drug-trafficking, money laundering, passports, etc.

Mr. Smith is reviewing all these accusations, which Lacayo deny are true. That is when Congressman Smith asked me: Then, why does the government not want an objective and unbiased commission, with no connections with UNO, RN, or Antonio Ibarra, to come to Nicaragua, verify the facts, and issue a report to clarify the serious cloud of doubt hovering over the Nicaraguan Government? At that moment, Antonio Lacayo—who, by the way, was accompanied by (Paul Reichler) at that meeting, as well as all other meetings with Congress—accepted Congressman Smith's proposal.

That is why, the day after the meeting...[pauses] excuse me, the same day of the meeting, a few hours later, the letter publicized on 24 March was issued and Mr. Smith invited his colleague Livingston to sign it. That letter contains the summary of his conversation with Lacayo.

Furthermore, as Congressman Smith told me on 19 March, he already discussed this with the U.S. secretary of state and other high-ranking officials of the Clinton administration. Their response is positive; they do support the idea of the unbiased commission to investigate all the accusations to determine what happened here in Nicaragua.

First obtaining the Nicaraguan Government's agreement, and then the agreement of their own U.S. Government, they have now turned to the real opposition force in this country, which is UNO.

As you can see, they are turning with an absolute seriousness to the UNO Political Council, thus teaching this government how serious persons act. Now, UNO is giving the final touches to their official response that will be issued—I am sure—within the next two days, and will establish UNO's official position regarding this idea proposed by Congressman Smith.

That is the truth backed by official documents and not the flagrant lies from government officials, which we are already sick of hearing. We are sick of hearing government officials lie so easily and who think Nicaraguans are dumb.

[Mora] The presidency minister, upon returning from Washington, told reporters this commission would reveal the great lies Antonio Ibarra and Alfredo Cesar told the U.S. Congress and government officials. It turns out, however, that he was the big liar. We do not know his current position.

Engineer Cesar, could the Nicaraguan Government, today or tomorrow, in light of the pressures from the FSLN—as they consider this to be meddling in internal affairs—tell the congressmen: We no longer accept the commission, so do not come?

[Cesar] Of course they could. That would be tacitly accepting that the accusations against them are true and that would have a devastating effect at the U.S. Congress and in the Clinton administration. Of course it can do that. Getting out of the hole the government is in by accepting this commission, would be much more damaging to the government than allowing the commission to continue with support from both U.S. parties. Therefore, it would be a very serious situation. [passage omitted]

[Mora] UNO said it is preparing a response to Congressmen Smith. Does UNO have any intention of broadening the scope of this special commission on issues already known by U.S. citizens?

[Cesar] We already [words indistinct] stage. We held the meeting of the National Political Council at which we prepared the response. We received the letter on 23 March at noon and in the afternoon of that same day, during a meeting of the Political Council, the reply was approved. They are now revising the final text. I can tell you now UNO will not only support the idea of the creation of this commission, but it is also suggesting additional issues for the commission to investigate. This of course includes the issue of the secret cemeteries that have been uncovered. The human rights institutions of Nicaragua are demanding that they be investigated. I believe, without anticipating too much, that the Political Council has approved this. The response is being polished and will be ready on 25 March. I am certain that on 26 March we will make it known to the Nicaraguan people, once we have sent it to Congressman Smith. This is the responsible way to act....

[Mora, interrupting] First, you send it to them?

[Cesar] First, we send them the letter, and once they have it in their hands, we can make it public to the Nicaraguan people.

[Mora] What is the criteria of the UNO Political Council regarding the invitation to a dialogue made by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo upon his return from Washington?

[Cesar] The UNO Political Council believes all of these verbal invitations made by a minister are not serious. The day we receive a written invitation signed by the president of the Republic addressed to the UNO Political Council, then we will feel we have been invited to a dialogue. The UNO position remains unchanged. The UNO is aware that the country is going through a deep crisis because we are permanently in direct contact with the people. The UNO is also aware it is under the obligation to seek solutions to this crisis. We need solutions that can resolve the problems of the Nicaraguan people. We do not need suggestions that do not solve anything. That is why we insist the dialogue must be frank, sincere, serious, and have guarantees.

We need a frank and sincere dialogue because we cannot discuss nonsense. We have to grab the bull by the horns. We have to deal with the problems that are hurting us in Nicaragua. It has to be a serious dialogue because we cannot disrupt the dialogue. The government should not disrupt the dialogue, which would be a mockery to the Nicaraguan people and the great difficulties they face each day, such as poverty and unemployment. The government should not use a dialogue for foreign consumption, like the Sandinists. The dialogue must be held with guarantees because the promises made by a deceitful government, which has repeatedly fooled all sectors in this country, cannot be believed. You can see that the promises made to the members of the RN were not fulfilled. The promises made to the democratic labor unions were not fulfilled. The Permanent Workers' Congress signed the National Agreement and all government enterprises were privatized to the FSLN.

The government has not fulfilled the few promises made to the private sector, let alone to UNO. The government has not fulfilled the promises made to the Nicaraguan people in general and now the government is trying to add the U.S. Government to this long list. The official report drafted by the Clinton administration on U.S. policy toward Nicaragua—a top Clinton administration official directly informed me of this and I will have to refrain from giving his name for obvious reasons—reports the Nicaraguan Government and its representatives made promises to the U.S. Government on two occasions last year, in September and December 1992, which they did not fulfill. The official report states this, therefore the U.S. Government is included in the list of broken promises and that is why we demand the dialogue include guarantees. What do I mean by guarantees? We need guarantors present when agreements are reached between UNO, the president, and her team. We need national and international guarantors present.

We have held informal talks with UNO and we believe that at a national level the most suitable person for this is our spiritual guide, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. We believe that at the international level, the Truth Commission, for example, could be a guarantor. If the members of the Truth Commission are suitable, distinguished, impartial individuals sponsored by the United Nations and the OAS, they could be guarantors. Some of the members of the Truth Commission or any other mechanism involving international organization could be guarantors. It should also clearly involve the U.S. Congress.

The penultimate paragraph of the letter Congressmen Smith and Livingston sent to Lacayo on 24 March reads as follows: Part of the proposal is that a biparty group of the U.S. Congress be created to supervise the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of this Truth Commission. What they are proposing is that the commission be created to find out everything that happened. Once it finishes its work, it will draft a report. That report will contain the conclusions of the commission and a series of recommendations to correct the errors, problems, and crimes that have been discovered. The work of the commission is over after they submit their report and their recommendations. The next step is to implement those conclusions and recommendations. What they recommend is that a biparty group of the Congress—of the Republican and Democratic Party of the Congress—be created to follow up the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the commission.

[Mora] That paragraph reads: We also recommend that a biparty group of congressional observers be appointed to follow up on the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the commission. We hope to see the formation of an international commission and we have advised the U.S. secretary of state of our views in a separate letter. Sincerely, Bob Livingston, International Operations Subcommittee; Christopher Smith, Western Hemisphere Affairs Subcommittee [subcommittee affiliation as heard]. The suggestion they make is very clear. I think there is some sort of negotiation, but UNO cannot accept Mr. Lacayo's group entering as part of UNO, which has been its custom.

[Cesar] No, if there is to be a serious dialogue, it must be between President Chamorro, her group, and UNO. None of these people belong to UNO. Consequently, we cannot include anyone who does not belong to UNO. Logically, on previous occasions this has prevented holding a dialogue. It is up to the president and her team, therefore, to determine if they want to have a serious dialogue with UNO to resolve the country's problems or if they want to continue to toy with this situation and with the Nicaraguan people, who are in an increasingly desperate situation, both economically and with all the injustices that exist in this country. [passage omitted] Since the month of January, UNO has carried out a successful strategy. At the beginning of January, perhaps many did not believe that we could achieve anything. I stated on several occasions on this program that the strategy was very simple, but very effective. It would be directed inward, at the national level, to protest in diverse forms and in the streets. Outside it would be through international pressure. There is no government that can stand the combination of the people

protesting in the streets and international pressure. It is the civic and peaceful way to solve the problem.

[Mora] An effective manner of solving the problem?

[Cesar] We have been practicing this strategy for the past two and a half months and just look how much progress we have made.

[Mora] Much.

[Cesar] Much progress. On 28 February, three weeks ago, we staged a demonstration. It was a great success. UNO is now preparing new actions. We know the huge demonstration on 28 February was not enough. We are preparing new actions throughout the country. Should it become necessary, we are prepared to paralyze the country completely. We will not stop until this situation improves. Internationally, we have seen that the pressures are successful. All that is happening right now is the result of UNO strategy. Some government officials—Minister Lacayo—have gotten very angry at times because UNO is making sure all that happens in Nicaragua is known in Washington and other world capitals and everything the Nicaraguan Government does in Washington and other world capitals is known in Nicaragua. In other words, we have clipped the wings of the government's double game. That is why they are so angry.

You may recall that the Sandinists also played operatedn under that sme strategy. They would say one thing here and another when they were abroad. They promised things when they were abroad, but did quite differently once they got back home. This government is trying to do the same thing. There are open channels with Paris, Madrid, Venezuela, Mexico, and Washington. It is our duty to keep those governments informed and to ensure they are not misinformed. Our first duty is to the people of Nicaragua, to keep the people of Nicaragua informed of everything that is being done. This Truth Commission bit is just nothing. Lacayo must have thought that because he was in a U.S. Congressional office where no one could see him, where he was accompanied only by (Paul Reichler), he could commit himself to something like this and that no one would find out. Well now the people know the whole truth. The letter has been published and UNO is preparing a statement on this matter. [passage omitted]

[Mora] What factors are delaying aid? The lack of U.S. aid is killing the people, a listener stated. Is it due to the problems at the Comptroller General's Office, drug-trafficking, Antonio Tono Ibarra's thefts, or perhaps the Center Group deputies? When the time comes for a Truth Commission enquiry, all these things will not be clarified in order to release the aid. What case is most affecting the granting of this aid? What can be done to release this aid?

[Cesar] Governments do not act quickly. In this particular case, the United States is now just assimilating the ramifications of the last round of charges against this government. That is why the older topics are still being discussed.

I believe the main obstacle, at this moment, for releasing the $50 million, is called Humberto Ortega. This is my personal opinion after visiting Washington three weeks ago. The moment Humberto Ortega leaves the Army, half the obstacles to release $50 million will be solved.

I want to stress the following: Clinton administration policies, which were outlined during my visit there, state that from now on, all aid will be conditioned—all of it. The $50 million is only a part, then the $20 million, then a further $30 million—all of which is outstanding. What we are discussing is the situation of the current $50 million that Mr. Lacayo was unable to release during his trip.

The Humberto Ortega issue and a pending serious dialogue between the president and UNO are to my mind the two most important topics, as far as Washington is concerned, which has delayed the release of this aid. I want to point that the investigation by the U.S. Government of the charges contained in the [word indistinct] is just beginning. In that country, after the charges are presented—and they were presented over a week ago—the period to gather evidence begins. The analysis of the evidence he submitted with his statement begins now. New testimony is taken from people who can confirm or refute his statements. In fact, several testimonies by Nicaraguan Government officials and officers are being gathered here. The U.S. congressmen are doing that work here.

This is the time to gather evidence for analysis. Let's recall that if the accusations are found to be lies, Ibarra will serve time in jail in that country. If it is established, through the current evidence gathering phase, that Ibarra told the truth, the next phase begins, which is the indictment before a U.S. court.

[Mora] [Words indistinct]

[Cesar] Against anybody who is mentioned. Let's recall the following: Some of the accusations involve offenses that cannot be prosecuted in the United States. Those offenses must be tried in Nicaragua because they were perpetrated by Nicaraguan citizens in violation of the Nicaraguan laws. The U.S. justice system has nothing to do with that. If it was proven those offenses were committed, it would only serve to freeze the aid definitely until the situation is corrected.

There are two offenses contemplated that the U.S. justice system regards as international crimes. That means, that even if they are perpetrated by citizens of other countries, the U.S. courts can try these people, even in absentia. Those crimes are: drug-trafficking, including money laundering, and passport forgery. These are considered crimes of international terrorism. The U.S. courts can prosecute someone in absentia for those offenses. Also, keep in mind that a very serious provision exists. Approximately two years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. authorities can go to any country, capture a suspect, and try him in cases dealing with these offenses. That ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court prompted protests from all the Latin American countries, because it means loss of sovereignty. However, this provision is in force. For that reason, the Ibarra case is just beginning, and the offenses will be tried in the U.S. courts, once the evidence is gathered.

[Mora] Are things beginning to be assimilated?

[Cesar] Yes. That is why we have the topics that existed before these charges came to light, which are the fundamental problems that worry the U.S. administration and Congress, namely General Humberto Ortega remaining as chief of the Armed Forces, the problem of the murders that go unpunished, the problem of the military coup on the National Assembly, problem of ownership, and the Judicial Branch problem. All those circumstances existed before Ibarra's latest charges.

[Mora] The murders of RN people is one of the topics that was discussed at length.

[Cesar] That is correct. [passage omitted)

[Mora] Mr. Alfredo Cesar, we are running out of time, so if you have anything to add to this interview, please go ahead.

[Cesar] Every time I have the opportunity to appear on this program, which I know is one of the most popular programs, I like to [seven-second break in transmission] of the people in the country. As I said a few minutes ago, the UNO strategy is working. Even though it has barely been two-and-one-half months since we began implementing it, we have already seen the results.

The people must keep their faith and hope that these measures and pressure actions by the people inside the country, as well as the international pressure, will inevitably solve the Nicaraguan problems, without having to use violence. The people must remember that UNO is prepared, the UNO leadership is ready to cope with all of those challenges.

What do we now have ahead of us? Logically, on the one hand the Political Council has decided to continue preparing the new forms of pressure by the people. We held a very meeting on 24 March with the Departmental and Municipal Political Councils to review the plans. In other words, there is a group that favors continuing the people's protests until we manage —if necessary—to bring the country to a standstill. What does the other group favor? The other group favors tightening international pressure.

The Truth Commission undoubtedly represents another breath of hope so it will determine what is really happening in Nicaragua and we can then clear up the grim outlook ahead for the government. People abroad have serious doubts about Nicaragua. Here, in Nicaragua, the people really have no doubts, because they know what is happening. The people abroad have great doubts, as they do not know what is true and what is false.

International pressure is very important in forcing this government to straighten out, particularly when [words indistinct] that is being proposed by U.S. congressmen, who after all, are the ones who decide if U.S. assistance is disbursed.

The third action is a dialogue. The UNO is open and willing, and it is seriously preparing for that dialogue. The Nicaraguan people must rest assured that UNO will never lend itself to any games through that dialogue to something that will not solve the true problems of Nicaragua.

[Mora] We just received a telephone call from a listener who said UNO should not dialogue with this government, because it has no way of exerting pressure. If an agreement is reached, how could UNO exert pressure so the agreements would be implemented? If the government has not complied with the United States, it is not going to comply with UNO. Therefore, that caller recommended that UNO not dialogue with this government, and wait for the Truth Commission to arrive from the United States.

[Cesar] Well, I do not think the recommendation should be to refuse to dialogue with the government, but rather that we wait.

[Mora] Of course.

[Cesar] UNO has decided to prepare for a dialogue, but we must wait a little longer. Perhaps, we will analyze this after Holy Week.

[Mora] Thank you very much, Alfredo Cesar.

Panama

DEA Reportedly Examines Drug-Trafficking Links

PA2803165793 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 28 Mar 93 p 1A

[Report by Orlando Mendieta]

[Text] An anonymous legal firm disclosed that five U.S. DEA members are currently in Panama gathering information related to the participation of high-ranking government officials in international drug-trafficking and money-laundering activities.

A Chiriqui Province lawyer, who for safety reasons chose to remain anonymous, pointed out the DEA agents arrived on 26 March from Miami and traveled to the province to participate in a drug-trafficking hearing.

The lawyer added the DEA agents had arrived at the hearing site accompanied by District Attorney Emilio De Leon after they met to discuss the issue.

It was learned the DEA agents had requested information related to the participation of government officials in drug-trafficking activities in the provinces of Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro, as well as in the community of Puerto Obaldia.

It must be pointed out that District Attorney De Leon, with a National Police intelligence officer, had launched an investigation into the use of the Puerto Obaldia area for money-laundering activities.

Minister on Use of Frequencies for Political Purposes

PA2703194093 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Excerpt] Government and Justice Minister Juan B. Chevalier cautioned on 26 March that despite the fact the state owns all radio and television frequencies, President Guillermo Endara's administration "has no interest" in reserving these frequencies for political campaign purposes.

The public official emphasized that the days when the military would use television frequencies to broadcast military programs such as "All for the Fatherland" were gone for good.

"As long as we are at the head of the Government and Justice Ministry, no one will use state resources for any politically related activities. Anyone that does, will have to leave," Chevalier pointed out.

The government minister made these statements during the ceremony inaugurating new radiotherapy equipment to be used at the National Oncological Institute.

Regarding the establishment of new television channels as recommended by Endara, Minister Chevalier stated it would be a good idea because it would be a good opportunity to provide more information. He added: "I have not yet not talked with President Endara regarding the possibilities of establishing new television stations." [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Says 'Hard Blow' Dealt To Economic Plan

PA2703021893 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Mar 93 p A1

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Text] The opposition has dealt a "hard blow" to the economic plan of President Guillermo Endara's administration by rejecting the National Institute of Telecommunications (Intel) Privatization Draft Bill in the first debate, Raul Ossa, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), has said.

"It is a hard blow to Vice President Ford's economic plan. It is the hardest blow yet," Ossa told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA.

The opposition PDC and Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) had announced their opposition to the privatization of water, telephone, and electricity services because their sale "is not in the country's best interests."

Ossa, who is also a legislator, stated that after the first debate in which the draft bill was rejected by four votes to three, majority and minority reports will be presented to the Assembly plenum made up of 67 legislators.

"The majority report will be against privatization, and the rejection in the first debate will be approved because the opposition holds 65 percent of the legislative seats.

"The assets of all Panamanians cannot be irresponsibly turned over as the government wishes to do. Intel generated net revenues of 105 million balboas in 1992," legislator and PRD President Gerardo Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez explained that Intel will generate 140 million balboas in revenues for the government in 1993, and if it is sold, the government will have to make up for that income "by increasing taxes or firing government officials."

The opposition holds 40 of the 67 seats at the Legislative Assembly, while the government only has 27 seats.

The draft bill to modify the current legislation on the state-owned Intel and turn it into a private company has six chapters and 142 articles. It was submitted to the Assembly in December 1992 by Juan Chevalier, government and justice minister.

At least 20 state-owned companies are in the process of being privatized. Of those companies, the Atlantic Banana Corporation (Cobana), the transportation service in the reverted area, two hotels, and Air Panama airline, which has not yet begun operations, have been sold.

SAVENPE, a company linked to businessmen who are members of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, has objected to the fact that the Limpa Company, which is allegedly linked to the Arnulfist Party, won the bid for garbage collection in the capital.

Journalists Issue Communique on Government Accusations

PA2703184793 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 27 Mar 93 p 12

[Communique issued by the National Journalists Association, Conape, in Panama City on 25 March]

[Text] Communique to the Citizens:

Recently, the education minister of Panama made a public statement that has been endorsed by the president of Panama. In that statement, the minister assures that the corruption charges he made against the Catholic Church have been twisted. Such a declaration endangers freedom of expression.

Not only are the minister's assertions about journalists false, but they are also slanderous and merit a public apology from the minister.

Likewise, the argument used by the president of Panama to suspend his weekly news conferences was startling. It is not supported by facts. He alleged journalists do not give broad coverage to his statements.

Because of the respect the community deserves and in exercise of our freedom of the press rights, the National Journalists Association [Conape] states the following:

1. The insults the education minister launched against the Catholic Church were not fabricated by the media. His statements are on audio and video recordings. The media reported the minister's statements.

2. The coverage and publication of the president's news conferences depends on the importance of the issue discussed, as well as on how clearly and extensively the information is provided.

On more than one occasion, whenever the issue has merited it, the president's statements were broadcast live for more than one hour. This is why it is difficult for us to accept that we are to blame for the suspension of the weekly news conferences.

3. We are concerned with the fact that contrary to what was promised during the 1989 election campaign, it is under this "democratic" regime that pressure and charges of persecution and abuses, as well as insults against the media and journalists, have increased. As we move closer to the new election period, the pressure, the accusations, the persecution, the abuse, and the insults have increased. It is regrettable to see how journalists are being used as scapegoats for other people's flaws.

It is easy to justify the inability of some officials to find answers by saying journalists are responsible for what is happening, by accusing us of lying and spreading pessimism.

We want to make it clear that journalists have not caused the ills afflicting our people. It is up to the government, the authorities, and leaders in general to see that they produce, with their work, specific events that represent good news for Panamanians.

We journalists have not invented the high crime rate that exists, or the dismissal of public employees, or the corruption charges, or unemployment and protests, much less the political rancor officials and other public figures demonstrate daily by their actions and statements.

Pessimism and negativism emanate from the actions of public figures, not from the news that journalists report.

Journalists are not at the service of any government. It is not our mission to please any particular sector. Our commitment is to the country and, especially, to those who have no voice in decisionmaking. Journalists have the right to state their opinion, and to be critical, thoughtful, and analytical. They have the right to work in favor of solutions to the problems of the community, to have political and ideological positions, as long as they know where the information ends and political manipulation begins.

We do not want to believe that behind the presidential concern there are political interests because we are approaching the election period. It would be great if we could come to the conclusion that everything that has been said forms part of a mistaken interpretation of our work.

Conape calls on all journalists and groups of journalists, including university groups, to evaluate periodically the national government's performance regarding freedom of expression and information, as well as its attitude toward journalists and the media. Conape urges journalists to research and be prepared to face any offensive, to keep in touch with each other, to exchange ideas, and to strengthen our associations. Only in this way will we be able to ensure that our profession plays its correct role.

[Signed] Barbara Bloise, President
[Issued] Panama City, 25 March 1993

Argentina

Menem Comments on U.S. Relations, Mercosur

PY2603222593 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Excerpts] During a news conference President Menem commented on a number of issues. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] When will you meet President Clinton?

[Menem] Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella was in the United States. He is drafting the visit's agenda. I cannot provide a specific date because I do not want to make a mistake. This visit probably will take place in June.

[Reporter] Will the bilateral relations maintained under President Bush's administration remain unchanged?

[Menem] Yes; they will not change at all. On the contrary, they will be strengthened and will become much more fluid considering the experiences gained with President Bush, who was a great president for the United States and the rest of the world because of his active participation in many conflicts that were quickly overcome. Besides this, the permanent U.S. presence in Latin America is very important. President Clinton told me he will maintain President Bush's policies, and, as I already have stated, he will try to strengthen them and make them more fluid.

[Reporter] It was learned a few minutes ago that Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella could not meet the Kelpers' representative in Great Britain. He said this fact does not favor good relations between Argentina and Great Britain. Will this situation force Argentina to change its strategy?

[Menem] I have to talk with Minister Di Tella first because this news was released a few minutes ago. I have to talk to him first. I think Minister Di Tella will call me tonight or tomorrow morning to report to me about this news. I do not want to express my opinion because I do not have official information on the issue. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. President, you just mentioned the Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. The second anniversary of the Mercosur treaty's signing will be marked tomorrow. Brazil, however, still registers an annual average inflation rate of 1,200 percent. Will this situation jeopardize the Mercosur accord?

[Menem] No. The timetable established in Asuncion, Paraguay, and ratified at the Las Lenas summit is being complied with. I do not think we will have problems because in upcoming months Brazil will overcome this crisis, which we experienced even more intensively than Brazil. We had an annual inflation of 5,000 percent. Brazil has a monthly inflation rate of 25 to 30 percent. When I took power, the monthly Argentine inflation rate stood at 200 percent. And Brazil is a continent rather than a country. It has all the resources and unthinkable wealth to quickly overcome its situation.

[Reporter] Will Argentina join the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement]?

[Menem] This is one of the goals Chile and Argentina seek to achieve. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Argentina Threatens To Sue Oil Companies on Falklands

PY2603205993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1418 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 March (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella conceded that the Argentine Government had sent "discomfort letters" ["cartas de discomfort"] to oil companies, threatening to bring action before an international court of justice against any company that embarks on "exploration, drilling, or any other type of undertaking" in the Malvinas Islands zone.

Representatives from the Falklands Islands Executive Council in Great Britain yesterday turned down the request made by Di Tella—who is making a private visit to London—to meet them. The most salient achievement of Di Tella's visit so far has been his meeting with Tristan Garel Jones, UK deputy secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs.

The meeting with council representatives was to be an informal one, but the motion was defeated five votes to three. Therefore, Di Tella's attempt to meet Kelpers' delegates was nipped in the bud.

Sukey Cameron, representative of the Falklands Islands Executive Council in Great Britain, stated that the meeting with Di Tella was suspended until Argentina "renounces its claim to have sovereign rights to the islands." This condition was flatly rejected by the Argentine delegation.

With regard to the letters sent by the Argentine Government to oil companies, Di Tella stated that they were sent as a retaliatory action for the "letters of comfort" [preceding three words in English] sent by the British Government, in which it pledges to provide protection to the companies that wish to tap resources in the Malvinas Islands area.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry is of the opinion that the British Government is trying to knock the Malvinas Island's economy into shape. The islands have reported losses of nearly 30 million [currency not specified] since Argentina implemented a policy granting fishing rights by government charter.

Di Tella stated: "We vindicated our claim to have sovereign power over the Malvinas Islands, a claim that has been acknowledged by right and in deed by the United Nations, in its capacity of international court. Moreover, we warned quite clearly that any oil company that ventures to start operations in the region will be brought to justice before an international court."

The aforementioned letters were sent by the Argentine Government to leading oil companies because ventures in

the oil business entail considerable investments and, therefore, are not generally made in disputed areas.

Di Tella reiterated that Argentina is not engaged in "predatory fishing or political-orientated fishing." He added that "oil exploitation is out of the question without a bilateral agreement. This means that cooperation among both countries is an absolute necessity for breaking the deadlock in the South Atlantic."

Di Tella then noted that due to this, relations with Great Britain have reached "an impasse" and underscored the need to "negotiate institutional aspects of what might happen in the possible scenario in which oil is found" in the Malvinas Islands.

Government Takes Responsibility for State Companies' Debts

PY2603223393 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1943 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (TELAM)—The state today legally took over the responsibility for the debt contracted by state companies and organizations with foreign creditors during the 1980's. This debt has been paid by the Finance Secretariat for some years as a step prior to the signing of the Brady Plan on 7 April.

The event involved the agreement of state organizations to the renegotiation of the foreign debt carried out by the Finance Ministry and the subsequent transfer of debt certificates to that ministry.

Horacio Liendo, the Economy Ministry's legal and technical secretary, said that "the process will regularize" the foreign debts of public enterprises, banks, and organizations.

The Treasury now pays part of the interest derived from those obligations by transferring $70 million a month to creditor banks.

The formal transfer of the debt to the state was part of the renegotiation of the foreign debt with creditor banks.

On 7 April, these papers will be exchanged for new Brady Plan certificates—at a discount or at face value—and "will be guaranteed by the government or the financial plan," Liendo said.

Liendo said that as of that date, "neither company assets, public assets, or Central Bank reserves will have any type of guarantees."

A compensation mechanism was established between official public banks that hold creditor papers, as well as obligations as debtors, to compensate them in case there is a balance in their favor. Any such balance will be accredited in the 1992 financial plan, Liendo said.

The signing ceremony was carried out at the Padilla salon, on the Economy Ministry's fifth floor, and was attended by Liendo and the heads of organizations involved.

Poll Indicates Voters Favor Menem's Reelection

PY2703013793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0036 GMT 26 Mar 93

[All figures as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (NA)—According to a poll by Lynch, Menendez, and Nivel Consulting Enterprise, more than 43 percent of the voters in the federal capital and greater Buenos Aires believe President Carlos Menem will be reelected, while 25 percent believe he will not.

The poll was carried out in the federal capital and greater Buenos Aires on 1 March. It shows that supporters of the parties that endorse the government "believe President Menem will be reelected."

The poll reveals that 59.1 percent of UCeDe [Democratic Centrist Union] voters and 56 percent of Justicialist Party voters believe the current chief of state will be reelected.

In the federal capital, 38 percent believe Menem will be reelected, while 25.3 believe he will not. In greater Buenos Aires, 46.8 percent believe he will be reelected, while 25.2 percent believe he will not.

Among Radical Civic Union (UCR) voters, 37.2 percent believe Menem will not be reelected, 30.6 percent believe he will not, while the remaining 26.3 percent have no preference. [sentence as received]

Some 20 percent of Social Unity voters believe Menem will be reelected while 40 percent believe he will not.

Among MODIN [Movement for Dignity and Independence] voters, 37.5 percent believe he will be reelected while 31.3 percent believe he will not.

Bolivia

Paz Leaves on Seven-Day Visit to Germany 27 Mar

PY2703133493 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Excerpt] At approximately 1410 today President Jaime Paz Zamora left on a seven-day visit to Germany. The president, who will also make a 24-hour visit to Bern, Switzerland, is going to Germany to return a visit made to Bolivia a few years ago by German President Richard von Weizsaecker.

Paz will stay in Germany until 1 April and will leave for Bern on 2 April. In Switzerland, the president will meet with the Swiss Confederation president and other Swiss leaders. [passage omitted]

Peruvian Envoy Denies Presence of Shining Path

PY2703133693 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Javier Gonzalez Terrones, the Peruvian ambassador to Bolivia, has said that there are no Shining Path terrorists in Bolivia and that reports that purport to have proof to the contrary are merely speculations. He said:

[Begin recording] Such is the case of an article published yesterday in a local newspaper. This article contended that the police had arrested five or six Peruvians who allegedly belong to the Shining Path. The Bolivian police, in coordination with the authorized Peruvian agencies, however, have ascertained that there was no indication or record linking those Peruvian citizens with terrorist groups. [end recording]

Government To Pay Off Debt to International Banks Through Repurchase

PY2603181393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2153 GMT 25 Mar 93

[All figures as published]

[Text] La Paz, 25 Mar (EFE)—Bolivia will pay off its debt to international private banks through the repurchase of $170.4 million in debt notes during a ceremony in the German city of Hamburg on 30 March as part of the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, annual assembly.

Bolivian Government officials and a creditor banks committee will sign the agreement in the presence of Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, ministers, top IDB executive members, and representatives of the World Bank and the IMF.

The government and IMF created a special fund to channel the donations of governments and other organizations for the repurchase on the secondary market of the debt notes to 128 private banks.

The latest donations of $29.4 million to the special fund will allow the repurchase at an average of $0.16 on the dollar of the $170.4 million owed to 41 banks.

In successive debt note repurchases, at between $0.11 and $0.16 on the dollar, Bolivia has virtually repaid its debt with the commercial banks. Some $8.5 million is still owed to four banks.

Through bilateral accords, Bolivia reduced its long-term debt of $800 million owed to Argentina. Through negotiations with various governments via the Paris Club, some of its debts were pardoned and its total debt was thus reduced.

According to a Finance Ministry communication published in the Bolivian press, during his visit to Switzerland, Paz Zamora will attend a ceremony in which an agreement on the repurchase of a $33.5 million-debt at $0.11 on the dollar will be signed.

This debt note repurchase will allow the Bolivian Government to reduce its total debt by $2,298 billion. In 1987 the debt represented more than 100 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.

The Bolivian foreign debt amounts to $3.774 billion, of which 51.7 percent is multilateral and 42.1 percent is bilateral.

Apart from the debt note repurchase through the special fund and the agreements reached at the Paris Club, Bolivia has also established other systems like the investment and environmental bonds.

Government Formally Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics

PY2703122493 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 17 Mar 93 p A8

[Text] A communique released yesterday by the Foreign Ministry press office reports that the Bolivian Government has formally recognized the Czech and Slovak Republics as sovereign and independent states.

This recognition is based on the law approved by the federal assembly of the Czech and Slovak Republic during its ordinary session on 25 November 1992 on which occasion it decided it no longer was a federative republic.

"The Bolivian Government's decision to recognize the independence of the Czech and Slovak Republics is based on the compliance of the guidelines followed by the international community to recognize states, such as the respect for human rights, the self-determination of peoples, independence, and other principles consecrated by the UN Charter and other international instruments," the Foreign Ministry communique states.

In this manner, the Bolivian Government expresses its intention to establish diplomatic relations with the Czech and Slovak Republics with the purpose of continuing the traditional ties of friendship that exist between Bolivia and the two new states.

Government To Prove Drug-Control, Enforcement Actions to UN Commission

PY2703182693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2114 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] La Paz, 26 Mar(EFE)—The Bolivian Government intends to prove to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, scheduled to meet in Vienna next week, that Bolivia has been carrying out drug control and enforcement actions.

Bilateral Policy Under Secretary Armando Loaiza today told EFE that the Bolivian mission to the Vienna meeting will explain to the UN commission certain reports about alleged policies that go against "the spirit of the Vienna Convention and Bolivia's drug enforcement commitments."

Loaiza said that the Bolivian Government is not planning to officially propose changes to the Vienna Convention at the coming meeting of the UN commission "because it is neither the time nor the place to do so" and refuted such reports published by the local press.

According to the latest reports of specialized agencies, the Bolivian Government is enforcing the antidrug law and has managed to reduce coca plantations, which produce the raw material for cocaine, to 30,000 hectares.

The Bolivian Chamber of Deputies has approved a resolution asking the government to take steps aimed at amending "those articles of the Vienna Convention which penalize coca," and "deleting the word coca from the list of narcotic drugs."

Under Secretary Loaiza told EFE that the government will study the resolution of the Chamber of Deputies.

In Bolivia, the world's second largest producer of coca after Peru, a growing number of people are championing the cause of the millenarian leaf, which was listed as a narcotic drug in the 1961 and 1988 conventions.

This feeling has spread to Peru, giving birth to the so-called "Andean Action" [Accion Andina] group made up of "coca" experts from both countries. Andean Action will send representatives to the Vienna meeting to champion the cause of coca using scientific and historical arguments.

Peruvian Hugo Cabieses Cuba [not further identified] will lead the Andean Action delegation to the Vienna meeting. The other members of the delegation are Roger Cortez [top leader of the Bolivian Socialist Fatherland Party], Ramiro Barrenechea [a Bolivian Communist Party leader], and Evo Morales [executive secretary of the Bolivian Special Federation of Peasant Workers of the Tropics], and Peruvians Julio Castro, Fernando Cabieses and Concepcion Quispe [not further identified].

Cabieses has told the local press that in Vienna the group will actively engage in a campaign in favor of coca and will advocate Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's "strategy to rediscover the value of coca leaf," and the "coca diplomacy" that Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora has used since last year.

The Bolivian foreign Ministry reported that to amend the conventions that Bolivia has signed, many years will be needed to obtain the support of a majority of the 50 countries that have also signed the conventions, before a formal request can be submitted to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali.

Two years after this is done each UN member will study the amendments to the conventions provided none of the signatory countries have rejected them in the meantime.

Six New Drug Enforcement Experts Named

PY2603234693 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 18 Mar 93 p 13

[Text] Official sources said on 17 March that the fight against drug trafficking in Bolivia has six new official experts recently designated by the interior minister and the attorney general.

Thus, the total number of experts on controlled substances throughout the country climbed to 20, compared with the 14 we had before.

The new experts are David Baptista, Angel Zeballos, Moises Ayala, Jorge Romano, Javier Aramayo, and Nicolas Franco.

According to the ministerial resolution, the six new officials will work on drug trafficking until December. After this date Attorney General Angel Baldivieso will replace or confirm them in their positions. The increase is part of an Interior Ministry program to improve its role in defending the state and society.

The sources said the Interior Ministry coordinated the nominations with the attorney general because the recently promulgated Interior Ministry Law was not published in the official gazetee yet.

Coca Growers Demand Expulsion of Peasant Leader

PY2703024593 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 Mar 93 Section 2 p 2

[Text] Cochabamba, 16 Mar—The five federations of coca farmers from this department's tropical region are demanding the resignation or expulsion of Paulino Guarachi, executive secretary of the General Trade Union Confederation of Peasant Workers of Bolivia (CSUTCB).

To attain this objective, 10 leaders began a "dry" hunger strike on 16 March in the headquarters of the Special Federation of Tropical Region Peasant Workers and declared a state of emergency and mobilization among the grass-roots organizations because they consider that Paulino Guarachi has "betrayed" the national peasant-workers movement.

David Herrada, vice president of the five federations' coordinating committee, said coca producers were not asked to sign the agreement between the CSUTCB and executive branch representatives by which the government was "invited" to continue eradicating coca plantations "within the framework of an understanding."

Herrada reported that 22,000 hectares of coca have been destroyed so far while the alternative development program has proven to be a failure in the department's tropical Chapare area. This is why the peasant workers assembly held last week rejected the agreement "for having betrayed the peasants."

"The hunger strike is to demand the expulsion of Paulino Guarachi. We cannot allow the total eradication of coca crops because they are our means of living; they sustain our families. That is why we believe that Paulino Guarachi has betrayed the peasant-workers movement," Herrada said.

He said that in the list of petitions endorsed by the COB [Bolivian Labor Confederation] coca producers asked for the suspension of the campaign to eradicate coca crops and the "authentic" execution of alternative development projects since "there is not a single project that is working properly."

Herrada said that in 1992 the interdiction campaign had a $27 million fund while the funds meant for alternative development in the area amounted to $17 million, of which only 10 percent was spent since the remaining 90 percent was spent on salaries for the bureaucracy of the Bolivian Institute of Agricultural-Livestock Technology

(IBTA/Chapare), the Regional Alternative Development Program (PDAR), operational costs, vehicles, offices, trips, and other items.

Herrada added that the grass-roots organizations are in a state of emergency and mobilized, waiting for the decisions of the national assembly of COB leaders, the reason for which Evo Morales Ayma, executive secretary of the Special Federation of Tropical Region Peasant Workers, has traveled to La Paz.

Brazil

Attorney General Asks Supreme Court To Arraign Collor

PY2703143493 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] National Attorney General Aristides Junqueira sent to the Federal Supreme Court [STF] his evaluation of the defense presented by former President Fernando Collor and eight other people involved in corruption charges. The attorney general asked the STF to act on the charges levied in November 1992 and arraign all those involved.

In a 30-page paper the attorney general carefully analyzed the defense presented by Collor and the others. He said that Collor and Paulo Cesar P.C. Farias had alleged that the charges against them were improper because the prosecutor was wrong in charging them with passive corruption without making it clear who the active corruptor was.

Junqueira stated in his evaluation that the accused have based their defense on a false premise, because the charge is soliciting of undue benefits by a public official and not actually obtaining said benefits.

Throughout his paper the attorney general seeks to justify the charges brought before the STF in November 1992 and quotes passages of these charges which in his opinion clearly establish the guilt of the former president and the Alagoas businessman.

The attorney general concludes by asking the STF to arraign all the people accused. It is now up to Justice Ilmar Galvao, the sponsor of the P.C. Farias-Collor case, to complete his report, and set the date for the STF plenary meeting to evaluate the charges.

Franco Dismissing Bahia Governor's Friends, Followers

PY2703133093 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Mar 93 Section 1 p 4

[Article by Lucio Vaz]

[Text] President Itamar Franco yesterday began dismissing Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes's [ACM] political friends and followers from federal positions in Bahia State. The measure was taken by PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party) legislators as a retaliatory measure for ACM's report on corruption in the federal government.

PMDB deputies and senators met during the afternoon to evaluate the consequences of the situation. At night PMDB representatives met with PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], PDT [Democratic Workers Party], and PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party] leaders. Legislators from these four parties have been demanding that Franco dismiss these ACM followers.

The first dismissals occurred at the Federal Agriculture Department, the National Supply Company, and Incra [National Institute of Land Reform and Settlement]. New dismissals were expected today at "Official Newspaper." The PMDB was informed by the palace that only Benito Gama, legislator from the PFL [Liberal Front Party] of Bahia, was authorized to make nominations.

Gama voted for the impeachment of former President Collor and wrote a report favorable to Franco's government when elaborating the project creating the IPMF [Provisional Tax on Financial Operations]. It was Gama's mediation that prevented the dismissal of post office Director Rocha Lima.

The continuation of former Collor government officials in federal positions has irritated the PMDB and PSDB. PMDB president of Bahia, Senator Ruy Bacelar, said that it is not a matter of equality: "If the party supports the government it is only natural for it to participate in its consolidation." Later Bacelar met with PMDB legislators to discuss the distribution of the new positions.

The Bahia governor yesterday again criticized the Republic's General Auditing Commission's opinion that was published in yesterday's issue of the Federal Government Official Newspaper.

The decision recommends shelving the reports made by the governor regarding the illegal use of public funds at the Welfare Ministry.

According to ACM, "it is regrettable for the highest-level government officials to use second-level employees to respond to serious acusations made against the government."

ACM reiterated the reports, adding that "the scandals are frequent." "The distribution of dark glasses must be intensified," ACM said.

Government Supervision of Cost-Pricing Policies To Become Centralized

PY2703174493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Mar 93 p 17

[Article by Eliane Oliveira and Sergio Leo]

[Text] Brasilia—Government supervision of cost-pricing policies implemented by some 200 companies that belong to oligopolistic industries, such as processed food, toiletries, cleaning products, and medicines, will become centralized. The Ministries of Finance and Industry, Commerce, and Tourism are going to use the data gathered in such monitoring to negotiate with the chambers of commerce representing these industries about the reduction in

adjustments they demand. Finance Minister Eliseu Resende said yesterday that there will be no price freezes or controls. His advisers are nevertheless studying whether price fixing is an economically viable solution in the event negotiations fail. The data gathered in the foregoing monitoring will facilitate the implementation of price fixing.

Resende stated: "We are going to get to the bottom of the problem of costs. We want to ward off rumors about price freezes, fixing, or controls."

The only course of action that the economic team could find to avoid relapsing into price controls was to enter into negotiations with businessmen. The government is unable to resort to the Competition Act to halt those oligopolistic companies that exceed their power, as it does not know how much profit oligopolies make.

Resende publicized the announcement that the Ministries of Finance and Industry, Commerce, and Tourism will be in charge of keeping track of costs and prices. In so doing, he released the Justice Ministry from the duty of curbing cases of arbitrary profit increases. Justice Minister Mauricio Correa is the government official in charge of protecting consumer rights and free competition on behalf of the government. He was fighting a pitched battle with the Finance Ministry over control of the Sunab [National Supply Superintendency]. Economic Policy Secretary Carlos Eduardo de Freitas is to visit Sunab headquarters in Rio de Janeiro today, where the largest number of Sunab officials are to be found.

Resende has not announced when the ministries involved in monitoring cost pricing will start their new task. He conceded that it will take time but that it will be "intelligently" done. According to a source close to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism, the schedule for the meetings with the different chambers will be disclosed in the coming days. The government expects to reach agreement with the textile industry, beverage companies, agroindustries, and the jewel and precious metals industry by next month.

Nuclear Plant Technicians Admit Possible Crack in Fuel Rod

PY2703022993 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Angra-1 nuclear plant technicians have admitted that the plant's radiation increase could have been produced by a crack in a reactor fuel capsule.

The Angra-1 nuclear plant stopped operating 21 days ago. The explanation given then was that there was going to be a routine inspection of the installation. But the stoppage occurred because of an increase in the radiation levels in a closed water circuit.

The water that circulates through the reactors' interior reaches a temperature of 300 degrees centigrade. This water then heats another water circuit, turns into vapor, and moves the plant's generator. But the radiation level began increasing last August.

On a scale of one to five, the normal level is one. Here, the temperature was reaching the level of two or three, which is why the plant was closed.

Engineers responsible for the plant admit that the radiation increase might have been the result of a crack in one of the 30,000 rods located inside the reactor that contain the nuclear fuel. Furnas [Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc.] directors guaranteed that there was no radiation leak outside or inside the plant. The population was not warned.

[Begin nuclear generation superintendent Pedro Figueiredo recording] Normally, we would communicate [illegible] to the public or the press if it were a real emergency. [end recording]

FEC To Invest Approximately $600 Million in Angra-2 Nuclear Plant

PY2603203193 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 93 p 4

[Article by Tania Malheiros]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—Marcello Siqueira, president of the Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc. [FCE], stated yesterday that President Itamar Franco has decided to call bids for the resumption of work of the Angra-2 nuclear power plant in Angra dos Reis. Siqueira said that the FCE has no money to finance the project but confirmed that there is a study for the FCE to sell shares on the stock market, yet without privatizing it. He said that there will be several calls for bids, such as that for the assembly of equipment and the transport of parts from Hamburg that are being stored in Itaguai (Rio de Janeiro).

Siqueira added that the FCE will invest approximately $600 million in Angra-2 in the next five years. "Approximately $10 million a month will be invested," he said. Overall investments to conclude the project are estimated at $1.4 billion. German banks will contribute $800 million. Since 1976, when the construction of the plant began, the government invested some $4.6 billion.

Drought Affecting 52 Percent of Northeastern Municipalities

PY2603203493 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Mar 93 Section 1, p 10

[Excerpts] According to a study carried out by FOLHA DE SAO PAULO with the aid of the Sudene [Northeast Development Superintendency] and state governments, the drought is affecting more than half (52.9 percent) of the northeastern municipalities and at least 8.3 million people. In the whole region, 407 municipalities have declared a state of public emergency. Piaui State has been hit hardest—137 of its 152 municipalities are suffering a drought that has lasted three years and affects 1.3 million inhabitants.

This year 74 supermarkets were looted, 40 of them in Pernambuco State, followed by Piaui and Paraiba (10

each) and seven in Ceara. The drought's effects are exacerbated by the high unemployment rates in the region as a result of the long economic recession.

The northeast is also the area most affected by the cholera epidemic. Through 19 March, 2,909 cases were reported in Pernambuco, 3,597 in Ceara, 1,890 in Bahia, 1,795 in Paraiba, 1,260 in Piaui, and 1,156 in Rio Grande do Norte. Seventy people have already died of cholera in the region. [passage omitted]

Crops—A total of 32 municipalities in Maranhao State have lost almost their entire crops of rice, beans, and corn as a result of the long drought that mainly affects central and eastern Pernambuco. This was reported yesterday by Forester Jonas Morelli, 54, Sudene coordinator in Maranhao. [passage omitted]

Sergipe—Families of unemployed people congregate daily in front of the city halls of the municipalities of the semiarid region of Sergipe State to ask the mayors for help. The Public Safety Secretariat decided to reinforce police patrols in the region, fearing a wave of violence and supermarket lootings. The amount of men patrolling the streets increased 50 percent.

City in Paraiba Invaded

According to police, nearly 400 rural workers invaded the city of Bananeiras (114 km northeast of Joao Pessoa, Paraiba) on 19 March and attempted to loot the city's open market.

They were prevented from doing so by the mayor, who announced from a car with loudspeakers the distribution of food. Although police were called, no incidents took place.

According to the mayor's office, as of 22 March the municipality will enlist people to work in special work programs. According to police, a group of rural workers looted the food storage room of a public school in Cajazeiras (646 km west of Joao Pessoa) on 18 March and took away all the food.

The stores closed and police patrols were reinforced. It was the fourth looting in three weeks in Cajazeiras. On 17 March, 500 people occupied the Cajazeiras City Hall demanding food.

Military Police battalions in Cajazeiras and Patos continue on a state of alert to prevent lootings in the cities. [passage omitted]

Government Considers Terms of Foreign Debt Renegotiation 'Unacceptable'

PY2603170893 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Mar 93 Economy, Business Section P 4

[Article by Beatriz Abreu and Marta Salomon]

[Text] Brasilia—Terms of the foreign debt renegotiation agreement are considered unacceptable by the government and the Senate will not approve it if we are obliged to pay the majority of the debt without a discount. Senator Eduardo Suplicy (PT-SP) [Workers Party-Sao Paulo State] revealed on 24 March that this position will be outlined by Brazilian Foreign Debt Negotiator Pedro Malan to the international bankers during a meeting on 29 March in Hamburg, Germany. The banks endorsed the renegotiation agreement on 15 March but want 60 percent of the renegotiated debt, some $26.4 billion, to be paid without the 35 percent discount sought by Brazil.

William Rhodes, president of the banks' advisory board, was the first to learn about Brazil's position. On 23 March he spoke with Finance Minister Eliseu Resende and revealed the position of Citibank, the country's main individual creditor (to the tune of $2.5 billion), which promised to review its options. Citibank wanted 30 percent of its loans to be paid without a discount, but the minister did not agree.

On 24 March, Resende sent a communique to the international financial community in which he makes Brazil's position very clear. The minister reminds the bankers of the agreement that there cannot be a consolidation of the payment options. Resende warns that a negotiated settlement from among the seven options would allow the government to estimate the volume of resources that it will save through the reduction of the debt and estimate what will be needed to purchase the guarantees.

According to Malan, Resende believes that the banks will spontaneously review their positions. The matter is controversial and involves the Senate, which will give the final word on the payment of the renegotiated $44 billion. Suplicy has done his homework and arrived at the conclusion that if payment is made without a discount, Brazil will have to pay an additional $10 billion. This is high because Brazil will have to disburse a considerable volume of resources to buy the U.S. Government bonds that will act as a guarantee for the final payment of the debt within a 30 year period.

On 24 March Malan traveled to Hamburg for the final phase of the negotiation that will define how the debt will be paid. "It will be a round of negotiations," he said. "The banks know it is impossible to consolidate the payment in just one option. This is contained in the term sheet [two preceding words in English]." The Brazilian Government wants the 850 banks to respect the terms of the agreement that provides for a balance among the seven-payment options. The first option is the so-called par bonds, which provide for the repayment in 30 years with fluctuating interest rates for the first 7 years of disbursements. The discount bonds, which reduce the debt by 35 percent, is another option.

The Steps of the Negotiation.

9 July 1992: The plan was submitted to the ICF (International Financial Corporation).

29 December 1992: The approval of the 1992 financing plan by the Brazilian Senate (the date of approval).

22 February 1993: The final negotiating date and the last deadline for sending a telex of commitment and reservations.
15 March 1993: The final deadline for the commitment to pay 10 percent of the preagreement contractual interest pertaining to 1992.
25 March 1993: The final deadline for submitting supplementary deadlines.
31 July 1993: The final closing deadline (on 30 November 1993 if it is postponed by 66, in other words, 2.3 percent of those who provided the loans). [sentence as published]

Looting, 'Invasions' Said Increasing 'Every Day' in Northeast

PY2603221193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Mar 93 p 8

[Excerpt] Recife—Looting and the number of invasions are increasing every day in the northeast. During the past 72 hours, 33 acts of looting occurred in five northeastern states. There were 14 new acts of looting in Ceara State alone in the last two days. The drought's effects, which had been limited to the rural areas and the hinterland of Pernambuco State, now have reached the forest where the sugar mills are concentrated in Pernambuco State. On 24 March, eight mayors from the sugar cane region declared a state of emergency in their municipalities. There are 90,000 unemployed peasants in the forest area.

The victims arrive in gangs in the small towns of the hinterland. Carrying empty sacks, they cordon off municipalities, public food shops, and private enterprises. When they are not contained by police, they take all the food they can find.

In addition to Ceara State, the invasions are multiplying in Pernambuco State (11), Paraiba State (four), Alagoas State (one), and Rio Grande do Norte State (one). The most recent invasion occurred on 24 March in the municipality of Taboleiro, 150 km from Fortaleza, where 1,500 victims plundered one of the town's public markets, taking away corn, rice, manioc meal, and black beans. [passage omitted]

Franco Meets With Cuban Envoy, Considers Visit to Cuba

PY2603202593 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Mar 93 p 6

[Excerpt] Brasilia—[passage omitted] President Franco has received Cuban Ambassador Jorge Bolanos. He later ordered the Foreign Ministry to study the benefits of accepting an invitation by Fidel Castro to visit Cuba. He did not hide the desire to make that trip and is already thinking of discussing pharmaceutical production with Fidel Castro.

The president also invited two pregnant journalists for an informal talk on health, education and technology. He said he is worried about the technological backwardness and announced that by the end of the month he will send an incentive project to Congress.

Government Reapplying 'Pressure' on Clinton To Suspend Surtax

PY2603155693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Mar 93 Economy and Business Section p 8

[Text] Geneva—The Brazilian Government yesterday reapplied pressure on U.S. President Bill Clinton to suspend the surtax that he has levied on Brazilian steel exports since January. During a meeting yesterday in Geneva of the Council of Representatives of the GATT, Ambassador Celso Amorim, the Brazilian representative before the GATT, again underscored the adverse effects of Washington's protectionist measures on Brazilian exports.

After the meeting, which was held behind closed doors, Amorim stated: "We want the U.S. Government to act more coherently." He added: "During a recent speech, Clinton stated that he was committed to support free trade. We want to see if he is as good as his word."

Amorim said that the U.S. Government is using another way to calculate when delving into allegations of dumping and subsidies filed by U.S. steel mills. The final report, which is to be released in June by the International Trade Commission (ITC) in Washington, may enforce the cited surtax and it will thus become definite. Amorim said: "This is a flagrant violation of international trade laws."

Through the implementation of its surtax on steel, the U.S. Government has hindered exports of hot and cold rolled steel amounting to some $2 billion. Amorim contends: "This measure has affected 50 percent of our steel exports to the United States and has placed 130,000 jobs in jeopardy." He added that the Brazilian Government plan to privatize leading steel mills is on the edge of disaster as a result of the surtax.

Following the Brazilian example of complaining to the U.S. Government, several countries—including Australia, Korea, and some Scandinavian countries that have been badly hit by the U.S. surtax—have followed suit. The Swedish representative stated: "We hope the 30 nations negotiating the liberalization of steel trade worldwide will manage to terminate U.S. punitive measures."

Businesses Said Transferring Money Abroad to 'Fiscal Paradises'

PY2603215093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Mar 93 Economy and Business Section p 1

[Article by Angelo Pavini]

[Excerpts] Brazilian enterprises are transferring money abroad because of the interest drop and because they fear a compulsory extension of financial investments. Taking bank estimates into account, $500 million may have been transferred abroad in two weeks. "An average of $50 million is being transferred everyday to accounts in Uruguay or other fiscal paradises," said Dirceu Miranda, SRL Bank director and exchange specialist.

The demand for tourism or floating exchange rate dollars for remittances abroad on 24 March made the black market dollar price rise 2.6 percent to 27,600 cruzeiros. The black market rate thus stood 15.94 percent above the official rate. This is the highest difference so far this year. To reduce this difference and the dollar price, the Central Bank [BC] sold dollars on the floating exchange rate market for the second time this week. The BC is believed to have sold $80 million on 23 March and $60 million on 24 March. [passage omitted]

According to Miranda, the BC should increase interest rates and the government should immediately define its plan to fight inflation and eliminate speculation. "Either the BC does this or it will have to continue selling dollars," he said.

French Brazilian Bank exchange manager Luiz Augusto Dias da Silva said the sale of dollars on the floating market will not involve the risk of an exchange rate crisis for the country. He said the BC still has a $20 billion reserve and the dollar inflow from exports, which are paid for at the official exchange rate, continues, having reached $600 million on 23 March. "By selling dollars on the floating market, the BC withdraws cruzeiros from circulation which prevents growth in the domestic debt," he said. In addition, the operation yields a 13 percent profit because the BC buys dollars at the official exchange rate of 23,817 cruzeiros and sells them on the floating market for 26,880 cruzeiros.

Chile

'Terrorists' Shoot Up Precinct Police Station

PY2703134693 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Last night alleged terrorists used automatic weapons to shoot up the 21st precinct police station on Ecuador Street in Central Station district. Colonel Guillermo Riveros, Carabineros chief in western Santiago, reported on this attack.

"At approximately 2130 last night activists of the Lautaro Movement or the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] who were driving a Lada car fired at the police station from the intersection of Ecuador and General Velasquez Streets.

"Fortunately, as you can see, only some of the windows of this new police station were damaged."

Asked about the reaction of the Carabineros on duty, the officer answered that duty personnel reacted immediately.

"Personnel on duty inside and outside the building reacted immediately and returned fire, but the attackers managed to escape."

Leaflets of the self-styled Movement for People's Insurgence (Movimiento por la Insurgencia Popular), apparently linked to the MIR, were found at the attack site.

Police Arrest Lautaro Group Second in Command

PY2703125493 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] The Investigative Police dealt a hard blow to terrorism with the arrest of the Lautaro Group second in command, the most wanted person in Chile.

The important action took place late last night at the intersection of Mata Avenue and Portugal Street, where Investigative Police personnel arrested Delfin Diaz Quesada, 34, the military chief of the Lautaro Group rebel and popular forces. He is regarded as the Lautaro group's second in command. The top leader is Guillermo Sandon, alias Diego Carvajal.

The police intensively sought Quesada, who in September 1992 coordinated the attack that claimed the lives of three Investigate Police members who guarded the house of the metropolitan intendant.

The police think that Quesada's arrest will help quickly arrest Sandom, who masterminded the attack on the police. He is the most sought after criminal in Chile.

It was learned that at least two other Lautaro group members were arrested.

Lautaro Group Member Dies in Clash With Carabineros

PY2703130493 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] A woman died and two men, one of them receiving a bullet wound, were arrested after a clash between Carabineros and criminals this afternoon. The identities of the individuals were not disclosed. It was learned, however, that the woman was identified as Guillermina Montoya, a top member of the Lautaro group.

Carabineros also confirmed that the detainees also belong to this terrorist organization.

Presidential Hopefuls Announce Signing of Agreement To Elect CPPD Candidate

PY2703023193 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Report by Osvaldo Vega]

[Text] During a solemn ceremony at the Plaza San Francisco Kensinsky Hotel this afternoon, presidential hopefuls Eduardo Frei of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, and Ricardo Lagos of the PS-PPD [Socialist Party-Party for Democracy] announced the signing of an agreement to elect the presidential candidate of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD].

This agreement reportedly is based on the decision to hold a convention on a proportional basis made up mostly of representatives elected in the primaries, in which the parties' supporters and independents who support the CPPD will be able to participate.

Both Frei and Lagos voiced satisfaction when they reported the decision to sign this agreement to the press.

[Begin Frei recording] We are happy and optimistic because we have reached an agreement that respects the dignity of parties, candidates, and other people. All members of our parties will be allowed to participate. This agreement was reached on a proportional basis and on the decision to hold the primaries, in which those who support the CPPD may voice their opinions. [end recording]

Frei stated that during the day he contacted Radical Party President Carlos Gonzalez Marquez and Senator Anselmo Sule, the Radical Party of Chile [PR] presidential hopeful, to report the agreement's terms to them. This decision also will be reported to the presidents of the parties that make up the CPPD in a meeting to be held on 29 March.

PS-PPD presidential candidate Ricardo Lagos told the press:

[Begin recording] I also want to say that the conversations held with Frei concentrated on Chile's interests. Any insinuation on possible negotiations on what the Chilean president should do would be to downgrade him. As soon as the president is elected, he will choose his collaborators, and we have agreed on this issue. I also want to thank him for his comprehension with respect to certain proposals we made to him and that we regarded as essential for the success of this initiative. [end recording]

The leaders of the PDC, the PS, and the PPD parties who negotiated this agreement voiced their satisfaction to journalists. They stated, however, that there still are pending issues to be considered, especially related to the registry of supporters and the establishment of the electoral team that will chose the delegates to the CPPD convention to designate its presidential candidate for the December elections.

Defense Minister Rules Out Military Budget Cuts

PY2703191693 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 17 Mar 93 pp C1, C4

[Report by correspondent Audenico Barria Navarro from Vina del Mar]

[Excerpts] Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas Saavedra has stated that Chile's military expenses are under control and he ruled out the possibility of cutting the military budget to increase spending on social projects. [passage omitted]

Rojas said that he believes it is necessary or suitable to reduce spending on defense "because the nation's budget is balanced." He stated that this year 60 percent of the government's spending is directed at social projects and he said that "the military budget, including budgeted and special allocations, does not surpass 12 percent of the nation's total budget."

He added: "In a country like Chile where development is a must and the people's just social demands must be given priority, you can rest assured that security will be given a balanced treatment because it is a vital component of development."

The defense minister reaffirmed that the Armed Forces budget does not contain any excessive expenditures "because there is an ongoing reduction in force that has already yielded results that can be seen each fiscal year."

He said that by maintaining the level established in the Armed Forces Organizational law, the country has a balanced budget that combines social priorities and attention to people's needs with justice and security to make development possible." [quotation mark as published] [passage omitted]

Judge Sentences Mapuche Indians for Squatting, Criminal Association

PY2703184593 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 18 Mar 93 p C9

[Report by correspondent Javier Orellana from Temuco]

[Text] Trial Judge Antonio Castro Gutierrez has handed down sentences ranging from fines of six minimum wages to prison terms of up to 541 days against 144 Mapuche Indians charged with illegal squatting and association for criminal purposes. The defendants stated that they soon will appeal the sentences before the Temuco Court of Appeals. The sentences handed down by Judge Castro were the result of a lawsuit that Temuco Mayor Fernando Chuecas filed against those who participated in the so-called "land-recovery actions" sponsored by the self-styled All-Lands Council.

Deputy Decides To Tender Resignation From Renewal Party

PY2603235593 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 15 Mar 93 pp C1, C10

[Excerpt] Deputy Evelyn Matthei reported to the press on 14 March that she decided to tender her resignation as a Renewal Party, RN, member. She made this decision because "various RN groups" are seeking to appeal the party Supreme Court's ruling issued in December 1992, and this procedure may cause controversies again within the party. She said this in reply to a question on her decision she made known to the electoral service director on 12 March but about which the RN was not informed.

Matthei reiterated that the party's electoral ruling was "unfair" and that, in the case of Senator Pinera, it was "disproportionately mild."

On that occasion, the court decided to suspend her as a RN member for a term of 10 years and to bar her from holding a post in the party leadership. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry States Government Support for Russia

PY2703012393 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has issued an official communique stating that the Chilean Government has

made public its support for Russia in the face of the political events in that country.

The Foreign Ministry conveys to the Russian nation its solidaristic friendship. It also voices its hope that the current problems will be peacefully resolved in keeping with the democratic spirit and the reforms carried out in the country.

'Important' Bilateral Agreements Signed With Brazil

PY2603190293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Chile and Brazil have signed important bilateral agreements in the economic and social areas. These agreements are based on a reduction of tariffs and increased cooperation between the two countries.

The joint declaration signed by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and his Brazilian Counterpart Fernando Henrique Cardoso mentions several initiatives in the academic, cultural, and regional cooperation fields. It also foresees progress in the international field.

The Brazilian foreign minister announced that with the visit of President Itamar Franco to Chile this September, an improved economic agreement will be signed between the two countries.

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has stated that this step is essential in overcoming difficulties in bilateral trade.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] The visit of Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso has been extremely useful in all economic and social aspects. It was also important because we have signed new agreements in the cultural field. [end recording]

The joint declaration signed by the two foreign ministers refers to the broad scope of Chilean international relations, both in consultation mechanisms and at international forums.

Access to Atlantic Port Planned

PY2703131393 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Report by Carmen Castro from the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso has reported that the Brazilian and Chilean Governments have begun a political dialogue that will result in major economic agreements. Cardoso said that Chile will have access to a port on the Atlantic through this cooperation.

The Foreign Ministries of the two countries signed a joint declaration in which they reaffirmed their will to improve bilateral trade. After the signing of a number of agreements, which did not include one on economic cooperation, Cardoso said:

[Begin recording] I want to especially express my thanks for the welcome by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, as well as the Chilean Government, which created the conditions for a very fruitful dialogue that resulted in the signing of a series of protocols and documents. In particular, we reached concrete agreements regarding economics and politics. I think that Chile and Brazil will follow a common path at various levels in Latin America, the rest of the world, and bilateral relations. [end recording]

Cardoso said that bilateral economic relations must be strengthened and that Brazil hopes that an agreement on economic cooperation will be signed this year. As for the cooperation protocols signed in Santiago, Cardoso said:

[Begin recording] A project to link [words indistinct] and a road between the ports of Santos and Rio Grande in Brazil with the port of Antofagasta is among the protocols we signed here. In the (?city) of Santa Cruz de la Sierra [words indistinct] to seek external financing, possibly in Europe, to achieve this task that has great significance because it physically links Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, and Chile. This does not mean that Brazil merely wants a port on the Pacific; it also means that Chile will have a port on the Atlantic. [end recording]

Cardoso said that there are proposals and initiatives that will allow for the active development of relations between Chile and Brazil.

Colombia

Car Bomb Explodes in Yumbo 28 Mar; 2 Officers Dead

PA2803020193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] A car bomb exploded minutes ago in Yumbo Municipality, 20 minutes from Cali, in Valle del Cauca Department. So far, there have been reports of two dead and three injured police officers and six seriously injured passersby. The car bomb was detonated as a police patrol passed by the railroad tracks in Yumbo Municipality.

The area has been occupied by 3d Brigade units from Cali. The injured are being transferred to the departmental hospital in Cali and the municipal hospital in Yumbo.

Draft Law on Internal Disturbance Decrees in Congress

PA2503233293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] The draft law governing internal disturbance decrees is now in the hands of Congress. Government Minister Fabio Villegas proposed substantial changes to the law when he presented the package to the legislature. The government presented the draft law ruling internal disturbances with one primary change: The Armed Forces will no longer carry out judicial police duties. The Prosecutor General's Office will maintain control over such judicial investigations.

[Begin Villegas recording] In the case of judicial police duties carried out by the military, we have applied the Constitutional Court's ruling to the draft bill, which says that the Prosecutor General's Office is authorized to create

such units within the Armed Forces, but they must be made up of civilians rather than military personnel. [end recording]

The government believes the internal disturbance decrees are its most effective weapon against crime. The government minister, therefore, must make every effort to see that Congress approves the draft law.

Escobar Security Chief Arrested, Under DEA Custody

PA2703164393 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—Pedro Fernando Chunza is under DEA custody after being arrested a few hours ago in New York where he arrived with forged documents. He had been security chief for fugitive Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria.

General Luis Enrique Montenegro Rinco, chief of the Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate [Dijin], said that in a joint operation with DEA and Immigration, retired police Lieutenant Pedro Fernando Chunza Plaza was captured. Escobar's security chief had recently departed Colombia and traveled to the United States via Venezuela.

Montenegro Rinco said Chunza was accompanied by an unidentified person with forged documents. The National Police officer said there are three arrest warrants pending for Chunza for his alleged involvement in homicide, kidnapping, terrorism, and illegal weapons possession.

Chunza had headed the Judicial Police and Criminal Statistics Office counter kidnapping group in Medellin and had been Dijin chief in Santa Fe de Bogota.

Intelligence Organizations Reveal Escobar's Security System

PA2803201193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Police intelligence organizations on 28 March revealed Pablo Escobar's security system. The key to Escobar's security is that only he knows where he will move.

Escobar's security system is made up of three security groups. The first group, his own personal guard, is made up of 15 men, who in spite of enjoying his trust are frequently rotated without prior notice. They have modern weapons and sophisticated communication equipment.

The second security group is made up of six men. They function approximately 200 meters away from Escobar's hiding place. These men, usually local peasants or neighbors hired as lookouts, use sophisticated communication equipment to report the presence of police agents in the area or any suspicious activity. They usually do not know that they are providing security services to Escobar.

The drug trafficker calls the third group of this security network the fly system. It is made up of two plain-looking couples, who move around in old or unpretentious cars. Their mission is to patrol the area and to report any strange activities by the authorities. They cover more than 300 meters in the area Escobar is staying.

Escobar's men always build underground or concealed rooms inside their houses in case the police get close in spite of these security precautions. The police have found hiding places during raids, one under a bed and another under a closet.

According to intelligence officers, this intelligence system has functioned well for the drug-trafficking boss. According to the same source, the search teams are getting increasingly close to Escobar.

DAS Seizes Medellin Cartel Information, Vehicles

PA2603201893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Report by Juan Diaz]

[Text] Financial information belonging to the Medellin Cartel and 45 expensive vehicles have been seized by the Administrative Department of Security [DAS]. The financial information was kept in a safe and belongs to the J.G. Auto Company owned by Jairo Mejia Ramirez, known as J.M. and a member of the cartel killed on 12 October 1991, and Gustavo Escobar Fernandez, alias Nono who died on 8 November 1988 in Santa Fe de Bogota. According to Freddy Paredes, DAS section director, John Restrepo Barrientos, arrested during the operation, carried a gun and had a small book with phone numbers of persons with aliases such as H.H. and Vanessa. H.H. and Vanessa are known to be important members of the Medellin Cartel's armed branch. It is believed the seized vehicles had been in a warehouse for approximately 18 months.

The arrested man will be handed over to the Prosecutor General's Office and an investigation will be carried out to establish where the seized vehicles originated.

Armed Forces Commanders Criticize de Greiff's Remarks on Corruption

PA2603201293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Report by Myriam Ortiz]

[Text] [Begin Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff recording] Cowardice and corruption. [end recording]

This statement by Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff not only prompted disillusionment and resentment but also reactions at every level. Reactions were heard from those who took the statements for a fact, those who questioned them, and those who simply understood that investigations are under way into alleged bribes paid by Pablo Escobar to the search team. The strongest reaction came from the Armed Forces in a document signed by the commanders of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and the chief of the National Police. The document reports that, as far as the Armed Forces is concerned, the prosecutor general's words are very serious. Furthermore, those statements

instead of naming the suspicious persons or individuals, have cast the shadow of doubt over the Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] [Ortiz] General, is it possible to bribe the search team?

[Search Team Commander Gen. Octavio Vargas Silva; identified by screen caption] I think it is practically impossible to bribe the search team. We work with groups from the Army, Police, and the Prosecutor General's Office and the Attorney General's Office is constantly watching us. [end recording]

When referring to corruption and inefficiency, the Armed Forces commanders reminded the prosecutor general that in the past few months they have arrested approximately 1,500 drug traffickers and rebels. Among those arrested by the search team during the 9,000 raids, 37 were leaders, and of the 110 deaths, 17 were group leaders such as El Chopo, H.H., El Palomo, and Tyson.

In their letter, the commanders also reminded the prosecutor general that in the Armed Forces cowardice is a crime and the military courts are responsible for investigating such actions. The Armed Forces said the prosecutor general made a very serious charge that must be supported by evidence.

Armed Forces Chief Defends Authorities' Effiencey on War Against Subversion

PA2603170293 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—General Ramon Emilio Gil Bermudez, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has defended the efficiency of the authorities in their war on subversion and organized crime. In a communique, backed by all the military commanders, he said over 1,500 delinquents have been remanded to regional prosecutor's offices in the past few months.

In Pereira, Government and Interior Minister Pablo Villagas Ramirez said the government defends the attitude of the military forces in their struggle to preserve peace and calmness in the country. He also reiterated he backs the work being done by the Republic's Prosecutor General's Office.

Ecuador

Finance Minister on Economic Adjustments

PA2603184893 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Finance Minister Mario Rivadeneira announced the government will make new adjustments to the economy during the year to stabilize the economic reactivation process.

Rivadeneira denied the new measures are due to conditions imposed by the IMF and the letter of intent he will sign shortly. He noted the importance of the country's position in the face of more competitive exports in the world market. The finance minister said the country should closely monitor the actions of neighboring countries because they have an impact on our reality. Rivadeneira insisted on the need to oversee the economy permanently and he justified the small adjustments the government will make to its economic plan during the course of the year.

Paraguay

PLRA President Comments on Stroessner, Election

PY2603131393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Mar 93 p 10

[Interview with Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, and vice presidential candidate for the 9 May elections, by Hugo Ruiz Olazar; date nor place given]

[Text] [Ruiz] Was the opposition in a position to overthrow former President General Alfredo Stroessner?

[Benitez] We were only in a position to undermine the regime. We were aware of the fact that there had to be some detonating element. Such an element materialized with Stroessner's attempt to remove President General Andres Rodriguez.

[Ruiz] Stroessner never exposed a flank.

[Benitez] This makes me remember [Colombian writer Gabriel] Garcia Marquez's novel "Autumn of the Patriarch." It seemed that Stroessner would never die, let alone become ill or catch a cold. This gave him a psychological power, a psychological strength. Stroessner's weakness only became apparent when the Pope came. He seemed to be old and had trouble walking. Stroessner underwent prostate surgery in September 1988; in other words, there was a growing sentiment that Stroessner would not go on. Then came the opposition demonstrations and, fortunately, the coup.

[Ruiz] At that time, [PLRA presidential candidate Dr. Domingo] Laino's figure and blue [the liberal party flag's color] colors prevailed in the celebrations.

[Benitez] I believe Laino had much prestige because he strongly resisted the regime. He was arrested, tortured, and exiled. He forcefully returned five times; he always struggled.

[Ruiz] What happened later?

[Benitez] The PLRA took Rodriguez's word, accepted his announcement, and joined the transition process. We participated in the 1 May presidential elections with the full knowledge that it was the price that we had to pay to pave the way for democracy.

[Ruiz] There was no Moncloa Pact.

[Benitez] We were not strong enough. We did not want to run the risk and demand a signed pact. We needed all of the opposition political forces. We ran the risk of becoming isolated. The other opposition political parties decided to participate: The PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party], the

PDC [Christian Democratic Party], and the MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement]. Even in our party there could have been a split over the willingness to participate.

[Ruiz] You were very tough with Rodriguez at the Constituent Assembly by not allowing his reelection or that of his relatives. Was it an Arganaist proposal?

[Benitez] We had a proposal that was based on the experience of the former constitution, which Stroessner used to base his rule for life. There was another proposal, exceedingly tough, by Senator Carlos Romero Pereira, directly linked to the president. We believe it was a great moment. We combined the text with a Colorado Party faction to make sure that a ruling party faction would not attempt to force Rodriguez's reelection in 1993.

[Ruiz] It gave the impression that it was a "vendetta" against Rodriguez.

[Benitez] In no way was it a "vendetta" for the PLRA because we admit that the president, good or bad, was the one who dealt the final blow to Stroessnerism.

[Ruiz] As PDC leader Luis Andrada Nogues said, would the PLRA have marched unchallenged if the National Encounter did not appear?

[Benitez] The PLRA has a huge number of voters, but it does not have the Colorado Party's 45-year-old state, military, and electoral mechanism. In light of the ruling party's deterioration, we, of course, represent an alternative; it gives us a chance to have an opportunity.

[Ruiz] Does the National Encounter represent an enemy for the PLRA?

[Benitez] We do not consider the National Encounter to be an enemy in any way. Quite the contrary. Andrada Nogues says it would have been an extremely easy victory had the National Encounter not appeared. In other words, they do not want us to achieve an easy victory. Thus, they consider us to be their enemies and for this reason they are running. It seems that their "leit motiv" is to prevent our party's easy victory.

[Ruiz] Well, now, this is your interpretation.

[Benitez] It is my thinking.

[Ruiz] But the National Encounter resolutely launched its campaign and is ready to contend with the traditional parties for power.

[Benitez] In its own electoral program Caballero Vargas condemns the role of the two traditional parties in the past 100 years of the country's history by stating that confrontations have divided the Paraguayan people. The National Encounter has more votes from the Colorado Party than it does from its own followers. How can Caballero Vargas attract the vote of Colorado Party supporters if he thinks this way and condemns this party?

[Ruiz] Who is the main contender of the PLRA?

[Benitez] Both Wasmosy and Caballero Vargas.

[Ruiz] The first legal democratic elections will take place since the independence.

[Benitez] We hope they will be better than the 1928 elections.

[Ruiz] Without fraud.

[Benitez] We will be alert for any attempts of fraud.

[Ruiz] Do you doubt anybody?

[Benitez] We are very concerned about the members who make up the Colorado Party electoral command.

[Ruiz] Who are they?

[Benitez] Esteche Fanego, for example. He was involved in all fraudulent elections under Stroessner's administration. Atilio Rolando Fernandez also acted when Stroessner won the election with 84 percent of the votes.

[Ruiz] The Laino-Benitez Florentin ticket has an image that creates a sort of insecurity and doubt in diplomatic and military circles. It seems that it reflects an image of "revenge." How do you perceive it?

[Benitez] I think that past struggles involving Laino and certain independent positions we have adopted with respect to the U.S. policy may contribute to this image.

[Ruiz] What, for example?

[Benitez] During the Malvinas War, the United States decided to support the United Kingdom. We issued a communique on 4 July strongly condemning this support. We also decided not to participate in the U.S. Independence Day celebrations at the U.S. Embassy, to which we were invited. At the time of the "cold war," our movement always supported a foreign policy aimed at overcoming excessive dependency. It also sought to intensify Paraguayan foreign policy through trade and foreign relations with noncapitalist countries but without forgetting that we are geographically and politically linked to the Western world.

[Ruiz] Does the U.S. Embassy have any preference?

[Benitez] The U.S. Embassy likely prefers a business-like candidacy, such as Wasmosy or Caballero Vargas, rather than Laino's political candidacy, which the dictatorship always described as communist.

[Ruiz] Why?

[Benitex] Because of the economic model the Embassy deems to offer more guarantee. The U.S. ambassador probably thinks they are more moderate politicians, despite the fact that Laino also has greatly moderated his political line. I do not mean that Glassman dislikes him. The embassies have to consider that the president is not alone. A vice president with similar or equal capabilities is ready to replace him.

[Ruiz] You mean you are this person. What is your profile?

[Benitez] I am a moderate politician "with commitments" as people would say in the United States and Europe. I am

a politician of consensus and not a gladiator. I share many of Laino's ideas, but I was not assigned the "motto" of communist.

[Ruiz] What is Laino's political leaning?

[Benitez] He is a centrist politician, but from a programmatic viewpoint many regard him as being from the center-left. He is described as an "unmanageable" politician at the internaional level.

[Ruiz] Might this image affect the electoral campaign?

[Benitez] I do not think so. The issue of sympathy or antipathy will have to necessarily adapt to the intentions of the vote. According to a recent poll conducted by Radio Nanduti, the PLRA is quickly recovering popularity in the capital and is even increasing its support in the interior of the country.

[Ruiz] You are the person who has been closest to Laino. Your designation as vice presidential candidate was obvious.

[Benitez] I was a candidate for first senator. We could not get a running mate for the presidential ticket. I addressed the issue of the vice presidency until "D" day arrived. Lists of possible candidates were presented. No decision was made. There was no alternative. One must break an egg to prepare an omelette. I myself eliminated my name from the list of candidates for first senator and I immediately became the candidate for vice president.

[Ruiz] Don't you think that the candidacies of Wasmosy and Caballero Vargas are the result of a generalized disbelief and distrust of politicians?

[Benitez] To speak the truth, politicians have a bad reputation. The political class has deteriorated, and politicians have a bad reputation, but this is not a totally Paraguayan phenomenon. The appearance of independent movements is not the result only to a generalized disbelief of the political class but to the lack of political culture as a consequence of the dictatorship.

It is obvious that the majority of the people in this country are young people. Apparently, they are the ones most attracted to independent movements.

The young have been repressed. They were told not to meddle in politics, that it was better to study. They were not stimulated and there now remains a generational void. They are two generations that did not have access to a political culture for 35 years. That is why they easily seek what is new, even if they do not know what it is about.

[Ruiz] Obviously they are looking for something different from the traditional political parties.

[Benitez] A politician is not replaceable. He coordinates the interests of the different sectors of society that have opposite views about the common well-being. Businessmen or workers defend the interests of their sectors. Politicians have an essential task in society. They must synthesize the interests of the different sectors into a political decision. Otherwise, it would be the law of the jungle.

[Ruiz] What is your opinion about the solution found for the Colorado crisis?

[Benitez] Independently from which faction was right, it has left the Colorado Party in an inferior situation from which to compete with the rest.

[Ruiz] What do you think of Argana?

[Benitez] He is an experienced politician, a good speaker; he has some charisma, as we witnessed during the last internal election campaign. But he has some defects like any human being; he is a little bit temperamental and unpredictable.

[Ruiz] Was he Stroessner's candidate?

[Benitez] I do not know. He had more Stroessner followers on his list than did other lists.

[Ruiz] Did he really win the internal Colorado elections? What do you think?

[Benitez] Based on the unofficial results and on the information provided by the electoral court representatives, he won.

[Ruiz] What was his sin for which he was not declared the winner?

[Benitez] There is fear among some circles. He was identified as very close to Stroessner. I think that was the main issue.

[Ruiz] You mean military circles.

[Benitez] I place myself in the position of certain important military chiefs who risked their necks on 2 and 3 February to overthrow Stroessner. If the coup had failed, all of them would have been executed for insubordination and for rising up against the president of the Republic and Armed Forces commander in chief. They could not lose four years later on a legal field the battle they had won. I imagine that that is their basic reasoning. They considered that Argana did not offer any guarantee to prevent the return of Stroessnerism.

[Ruiz] Whom did the PLRA prefer, Wasmosy or Argana?

[Benitez] According to our strategic analysis we would have been better off with Argana than with Wasmosy.

[Ruiz] Then you were placed in a sort of "off side" [preceding two words given in English] position with the confirmation of Wasmosy as your contender.

[Benitez] I would not say that. Wasmosy is a man placed by the military leadership, perhaps by the president, and he has the support of strong economic interests connected with Itaipu. He responds to the economic interests of certain sectors. I am under the impression he responds to the groups in power.

[Ruiz] Will Rodriguez have to pay any pending accounts if the PLRA wins the elections?

[Benitez] If he hands over power to the civilian government that is to be elected by free and clean elections next 9 May, he will be consecrated as the real creator of Paraguayan democracy. He will make great history. I have

the impression that he will undergo a spiritual and emotional whitewashing. A pardon law would be passed because he kept his promise.

[Ruiz] To conclude, have you made any promise if your ticket wins the election?

[Benitez] For a long time I have thought that as soon as I learn that the results are favorable for us, I will go to La Recoleta cemetery to lay a wreath at my parents' tomb.

Colorado Party President's Address Criticized

PY2603213793 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 26 Mar 93 p 12

[Editorial: "The Nasty Face of Electoral Fraud"]

[Text] The address given in Tobati by the Colorado Party president can only be defined in this way: absolutely extraordinary. It is impossible to find an example of such an astounding public and open-handed call for fraud and violence in an election process in Paraguay's turbulent political history. It is not that such calls have never been made, but when they have they invariably have been made in a carefully couched way with the most elaborate makeup. From this viewpoint, what happened in Tobati has an undisputed anthological [antologica] importance.

With every word in the dictionary, Mr. Blas N. Riquelme called on his party members to take the ballot boxes "by assault" because in his strange conceptual perception the elections are a "war." The journalists covering the ceremony had not yet overcome their surprise caused by these remarks when Riquelme followed up with the announcement of the creation of a committee of specialists to "cheat" in the 9 May elections so the outcome will be favorable to the official party.

Riquelme's doctrine, which will certainly be learned of with stupefaction by political scientists throughout the world, indicates that "there is no such thing as a game without cheating." And cheating must be carried out to be faithful to the spirit of the game to "trick the adversaries." And then, in another passage of his address, he made truly alarming remarks: the provision of weapons—money, stationery, or whatever—to party members so the assault can be made with the support of the law.

In other words, the Colorado Party president is not interested at all in the 9 May elections being an example of respect for the people's will. If these remarks had been made by a grass-roots leader in a moment of uncontrollable fervor, then this threat might have been forgotten. But this problem has an absolutely different aspect because the remarks were made by no other than the president of the government party, who also is united by strong ties with the most representative persons of the government.

It is easy to deduce that his words are the announcement of a firm political decision to distort the democratic process in a double-pronged action: fraud and violence. No one can allege that the ANR [National Republican Association-Colorado Party] president spoke in a figurative way in Tobati because he has no known affection for metaphors. On the contrary, his address was very, very clear, and most surely a reflection of his most intimate thoughts.

In this case, the Riquelme doctrine conforms with other noticeable events in the preelection process: the return of the obligatory contribution to the government party's coffers by public employees; the threat of firing all public employees who do not support the official candidates; and the attempts to modify the electoral legislation to turn it into an instrument for the designs of the government leadership.

The march toward 9 May is, therefore, ever more difficult and long, overshadowing with very dark clouds the transition process, which, in every light, on that day will be put to a test. At that time it will be known whether the people will be respected for their viewpoints or, on the contrary, an ominous return will be made to the most retrograde of authoritarianism.

Candidate Wasmosy's Economic Program Praised

PY2603235093 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2347 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Commentary by RPC economic commentator Pablo Herken during Channel 13's regular "Second Edition" newscast]

[Text] Good evening. Right when the political climate is calmer, things turned more hopeful and the economy looks brighter because our cotton and soybean production is improving. Colorado Party candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy presents what can be considered a very good economic program, which is thought out to benefit the country and is above partisan politics.

From an exclusively technical, professional, or economic viewpoint—that is, trying to separate the eggs from the tortilla—we can say that the Colorado Party strategy for the economic structural adjustment of the economy has become the more solid, consistent, concrete, realistic, and courageous economic proposal of recent times, excepting perhaps the little big topic of Itaipu's renegotiation.

The program rejects savage capitalism as inhuman and decadent populism as inflationary. Wasmosy is convinced that democracy's survival will depend on the model of economic growth selected and that to overcome underdevelopment, which will be long and full of sacrifices, the economy must be the backbone of any future Colorado Party government, taking maximum care of monetary stability, a balanced budget, the cleaning up of public finances, the state's reduction, the privatization of state enterprises, and productively reinvesting some of the people's money such as Itaipu revenues.

Wasmosy's good economic program, however, must face four big obstacles: first, Wasmosy's ta[illegible]shed image after the savage Colorado Party primary and his resulting low credibility level; second, the still very weak political support from a Colorado Party that does not understand, or applaud, such a harsh program; third, the fact that Wasmosy's proposals are seen as a simple continuation of

President Rodriguez's economic programs; and fourth, people's fear of the powerful economic groups that might be behind the program.

But what is worse and more difficult for Wasmosy and his happy talk to modernize and change the country will be how to prevent some bad Colorados from destroying his entire program.

An example of a bad and backward Colorado Party follower is Eugenio Sanabria Cantero, who still believes that public workers can be manipulated, pressured, scared, forced, or humiliated with the cowardly threat to vote for the Colorado Party or lose their jobs. In his human hunt those who work for the state are slaves of the party and cannot be free to enjoy their full human rights.

The most horrible example of a savage and primitive Coloradism, a political position the country no longer wants or needs and the people no longer have the stomach to digest, however, is Blas N. Riquelme, who only thinks of trickery and assaults, or Mario Benitez Escobar, a Colorado Party precinct president who asked for the heads of excellent and honest public servants such as Martin Burt, Sergio Von Horoch, Ruban Fadlala, Reinaldo Penner, and Carmen Quintana de Horak just because they are not Colorado members. This was well answered by the education vice minister: The people pay me to work for the state not the Colorado Party. In a serious country, such as the country we are trying to build, public servants are not the property of parties or governments. They belong to the people. They are not slaves but free people. They are not animals but humans. In a democracy like the one we have begun to build the people have many colors and are free.

The big question then is: How will Wasmosy manage to implement a very good Colorado Party economic program without the destructive effect or interference of bad Colorados, beginning with the party president who dreams of an impossible and useless past?

You can mix coffee and milk but you cannot mix oil with water. Thank you.

Renegotiation of Itaipu Treaty Through Mercosur Considered

PY2603235293 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Mar 93 p 13

[Text] During a meeting with deputies on the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Dr. Alexis Frutos Vaesken yesterday raised the possibility of renegotiating the Itaipu Treaty within the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] framework, by which our country would give up the possibility of negotiating bilaterally with Brazil on everything concerning the binational hydroelectric enterprise. Our country also would be restricting its claims against a clause banning the sale of the power plant's energy to third countries. The foreign minister also admitted that changes to Annex A would include the joint management of the binational enterprise, ruling out the principle of rotating management. At the invitation of Foreign Relations Committee members, Frutos Vaesken met, at the Congress building, with the Foreign Relations Committee yesterday afternoon.

At the end of the meeting, which lasted one hour and 15 minutes and was held behind closed doors, Frutos Vaesken made it clear that there still is no concrete stance by or petition from the Public Works and Communications Ministry (MOPC)—which Itaipu Binational is under, the Executive Branch, or the Paraguayan Congress for our government to propose a renegotiation of the Itaipu Binational Treaty to the Brazilian Government.

In Frutos Vaesken's opinion, there is a single point that must be renegotiated in the Itaipu Treaty. This point concerns the possibility that Paraguay be allowed to sell the power plant's energy to third countries. According to the minister's proposal yesterday, these third countries would be the Mercosur signatories.

For his part, Colorado Party Deputy Carlos Duarte Torres noted that, within Mercosur, "Paraguay's ability to freely sell its energy fits perfectly well."

Duarte Torres added: "This is only natural because we are talking about integration." He said that he shares this stance with the foreign minister.

Duarte Torres added that the Itaipu Treaty has been in effect for more than 20 years and, according to the teaching of major international experts, some of them Brazilians, it is clear that changes must be introduced in an international treaty after 20 years. The ruling-party congressman said: "There is a Paraguayan goal and also a serious Brazilian goal of renegotiating the sale of our energy within the Mercosur integration framework."

For his part, Dr. Jose Felix Fernandez Estigarribia (PLRA) [Authentic Radical Liberal Party], the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee chairman, said that the possibility of handling the renegotiation issue through Mercosur is a point for Congress to study and consider.

Fernandez also said that any renegotiation with Brazil must be conducted bearing in mind the integration spirit and that Brazil must understand this necessity.

Fernandez also said that this must not be interpreted as if Paraguay would give up its sovereignty to discuss its affairs bilaterally, but as a new concept that exists for integration policies.

It must be pointed out, however, that the relinquishment of our country's bilateral negotiation rights on Itaipu actually also involves giving up other claims, such as the unfair compensation Paraguay receives for surrendering its energy, the nonexistence of a calculation criterion for establishing compensation amounts, etc.

There Is a Possibility for Full Joint Management

Another point discussed yesterday during the meeting between the foreign minister and the deputies involves the possibility that our country will include changes in the Itaipu Treaty's Annex A. In this regard, the foreign minister mentioned the existence of a proposal for a shared and joint

Itaipu Binational management (full joint management). He added: "There would not be any rotation involving replacements. Instead, there would be two permanent directors in each administrative section: a Paraguayan and a Brazilian."

The foreign minister confirmed that the proposal has been withdrawn from Congress by the Executive Branch to review the objections and that it was sent to the new Itaipu administrative council for it to draw up an improved proposal.

Itaipu's Indebtedness to Paraguay

Concerning the last point on the agenda discussed between the foreign minister and the deputies, Dr. Frutos Vaesken elaborated on Itaipu's indebtedness to our country. The foreign minister said that, according to the results achieved by the Paraguayan delegation that traveled to Brazil on 10 March, Brazil pledged to pay the outstanding unscheduled debt by 31 March.

The breakdown is as follows: $6.3 million owed in December already has been paid and received by the Paraguayan Central Bank (BCP) and the balance, up to $52 million of the outstanding debt, will be settled by 31 March.

The foreign minister explained that Itaipu's outstanding unscheduled debt also includes a debt that was rescheduled in June, a debt that was to be paid in 18 installments of $7.5 million each. He added that 10 installments still are due, these installments normally would be paid when they become due, and there would not be any overdue installments.

The foreign minister announced that the binational enterprise would have to pay $16.3 million to our country in April as follows: royalties and compensation for energy not consumed by one country and used by the other country. He said that this portion has been paid and the scheduled debt alone remains to be paid.

Weapons Deal Reportedly Linked to 'Iran-Contras' Arms Deal

PY2603223093 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 26 Mar 93 p 10

[Article by special correspondent to Montevideo Jose Gregor]

[Text] Montevideo—The weapons-trafficking affair being investigated by Paraguayan Deputy Osvaldo Bergonzi reportedly is linked to the Iran-Contras arms deal that has caused major repercussions in the United States. Bergonzi commented yesterday on this possible connection.

He said he has information that includes Chile in the affair, adding that there is no official information but there are indications leading to that fact.

Here in Uruguay, the press today began to take interest in the story and large headlines were published in several newspapers. Local television also carried a lengthy report on the situation, stressing its seriousness.

Moreover, Paraguayan criminal prosecutor Leonardo Ledesma reported that at noon today he will visit the Pan de Azucar Bank to acquire as many documents as possible on the process.

Ledesma will first ask his Uruguayan counterparts, through a letter rogatory, for the lifting of the bank secrecy that exists in Uruguay.

Ledesma said he believes there will be no problem at the Supreme Court over submitting the letter rogatory to a judge who might immediately rule in favor of the prosecutor's request.

He added that he must be back in Asuncion by 30 March, when General Alejando Fretes Davalos (retired) must testify on the same case.

He said Paraguayan Prosecutor General Luis Escobar Faella already has received authorization from businessman Gustavo Saba to lift bank secrecy concerning his account in said bank.

According to Deputy Bergonzi's investigation, the use of Paraguay as an arms-trafficking bridge reportedly is linked to the notorious U.S. "Iran-Contras" case.

The investigation being carried out by the Paraguayan deputy is being made difficult, but not impossible, because Uruguay has a law to protect bank secrecy. This prevents the investigation of cases like the supposed trafficking of weapons to South Africa and Iran, although it is hoped that positive results may be obtained through the courts.

After a meeting with Uruguayan congressman Namandu Fau, Begonzi said the bank secrecy law in Uruguay is flexible and he may obtain documents through Uruguayan congressmen.

Bergonzi said that, under the Constitution, if a Uruguayan congressman asks for information on a bank, it must be forthcoming. Unfortunately, the situation seems to be somewhat parsimonious when a Paraguayan deputy asks, and very little has been achieved so far. Moreover, he has no work agenda to further delay matters.

Uruguayan Blanco Party Senator Alvaro Alonso stated that to obtain this type of information one must resort to the regular court, which will order the bank to release or show the documents to the Paraguayan deputy. He said this during a meeting called by Deputy Fau to establish if Alonso would cooperate with his Paraguayan colleague.

Today Bergonzi is scheduled to visit the town of Maldonado, where he will meet with Maldonado Department Deputy Hugo Sosa, who could provide some type of information on the operations of the Pan de Azucar Bank, especially about its director, a man called Giovanni, who is believed to be involved in illegal activities.

Peru

Fujimori on 'Alleged' Cut in U.S. Aid in Antidrug Struggle

PA 2803034593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0232 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Lima, 27 Mar (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori on 27 March said he has no official information on an alleged cut in U.S. aid for the struggle against drug trafficking in his country. Media reports published this week in the United States state that the U.S. Congress and Government have decided to eliminate "aid to the amount of millions of dollars for South America" targeted for the counternarcotics struggle.

The Peruvian president added that U.S. aid in this area is not very significant because Peru has received only $11 million of the $60 million agreed upon in 1991 when the two countries signed an agreement to fight drug trafficking and to replace coca crops with unharmful ones. A large portion of the $11 million is used to pay U.S. advisers working in Peru, Fujimori added.

He said the counternarcotics struggle "requires conviction from the two parties, conviction that it is necessary for and makes possible the fight against drug trafficking."

Fujimori visited San Ramon and La Merced in the jungle area of Junin Department, along the central Peruvian mountain range, to inaugurate a girl's school constructed with a donation from Japan. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister: Cuts Not That Significant

PA2703182793 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0225 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] According to Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente Raygada, the government will not yield in its struggle against drug trafficking. He stated recent cuts in U.S. financial assistance earmarked for the counternarcotics program are not that significant.

[Begin de la Puente recording] In fact, we have noticed that since 1992 assistance from the United States based on the Counternarcotics Agreement has undergone substantial cuts. To have an idea of 1922 assistance, consider that Peru only received $11 million of the $60 million we had requested. Of the amount received, most was used to finance transportation and living expenses of the narcotics specialists and advisers in Peru. In this respect, we can say for all practical purposes there has not been substantial economic assistance that can be affected. We support President Fujimori's conviction that we should direct our efforts to crop substitution alternatives, as well as to try to improve the living standards of coca crop growers. Up until most recently, coca growers were being treated as part of the criminal groups involved in drug trafficking. The president has weighed the human aspect of the Peruvian coca growers. In this respect, we believe the solution lies in presenting alternatives that will allow them to grow alternative crops under favorable conditions. [end recording]

Seventy Prisoners Said To Escape From Quencoro Prison

PA2903024493 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report by Mario Gallegos from Cuzco—live]

[Text] There was a violent mass escape on the afternoon of 28 March from the Quencoro Prison, 10 km south of Cuzco, San Jeronimo District. The escape took place at 1720 when a dump truck exploded outside the prison distracting the police as visiting hours concluded.

Initial police reports state that 70 prisoners, most of them charged with terrorism, reportedly escaped. The police immediately initiated an intensive search in the area surrounding the prison. It is reported that four persons are dead, including a policeman, and several are injured.

It is not known, however, if the dead were killed by gunshots or if they are fugitives or civilians (?who were visiting). At this time the police, supported by the Army, are combing the area to prevent the fugitives from reaching nearby mountains, which would make their capture more difficult.

An Army helicopter equipped with powerful spotlights is overflying the area despite the darkness. The characteristics of this escape suggest it was a planned operation because the fugitives had weapons and because a dump truck exploded in the area. There were also strong explosions in nearby areas and grenades were scattered over the floor. Reportedly, the prisoners even had horses at their disposal to facilitate their escape.

It is not yet known whether the prisoners escaped through the main door or a hole in the prison wall caused by the vehicle explosion.

Bomb Outside School Causes Heavy Damage, No Injuries

PA2703170593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Lima, 27 Mar (EFE)—While the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla gang attacks government-run and private schools in Lima before the start of classes in Peru, some terrorist leaders avoid serving life sentence by reporting on their comrades.

On 27 March, a station wagon exploded outside the Jose Abelardo Quinonez experimental school in Lima's La Molina district. The school is operated by the Peruvian Air Force.

Damage was heavy, but there were no personal injuries. Neighboring homes were damaged and the station wagon was demolished.

The Shining Path used explosives to attack three government-run and one private school in the early hours of the morning on 26 March but only caused relatively minor damage.

Combined police and Army forces are continuing a systematic search of houses in Lima's outskirts in search of terrorists, criminals, and people without identification documents.

According to police reports, 25 people who seemingly formed attack "commandos" against the schools, were arrested.

In the searches carried out on 26 March, mostly in La Victoria and other places, 200 people were arrested, mostly terrorist suspects and people without identification documents.

Weapons and homemade bombs were confiscated from those arrested.

Seven had to be arrested under gunfire, but no one was injured.

The National Police also reported the arrest of seven alleged terrorists in Ayacucho, where the Shining Path movement originated.

In Huanta, a village in the south Andean department of Ayacucho, a ceremony will be held at which the Army will deliver weapons to 200 members of the so-called "peasant patrols" [rondas campesina] militia service, who oppose the Shining Path.

The "rondas" in Huanta, created three years ago, support the Army in counter subversive operations in Ayacucho.

An anonymous military tribunal decided to stop the trial of a Shining Path leader, following his decision to assist in the capture of other leaders.

The "repentant's" identity is closely guarded. Seemingly he and his family have been given a new identity and he may possibly be sent abroad.

The "repentant" was captured in Lima several months ago and his willingness to cooperate with the authorities has freed him from a life sentence. [passage omitted]

Fujimori Asks Those in 'Terrorist' Ranks To Surrender in Video Message

PA2603161193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Videotaped message featuring President Alberto Fujimori urging terrorists to surrender to authorities]

[Text] [Announcer] Terrorism is death and destruction, but sooner than you think, terrorism is confinement. It is only a half hour of fresh air each day. It is one visit per month. It is pain for life. Terrorism is a life sentence.

[Fujimori] Do not get involved in terrorism. Report those who collaborate with terrorists. If you are already in the terrorist ranks, take advantage of the Repentance Law. You still have time to do so.

Third-Ranked MRTA Leader Captured in Arequipa

PY2603223593 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 Mar 93 p 10

[Excerpt] Arequipa, 17 March—National Police agents have captured Luis Alberto Villar Gamboa—ranked third within the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] leadership. Villar was responsible for a number of attacks on antiterrorist bases in the Department of Cusco.

It was reported that Villar was captured in Arequipa as he was boarding a train for Cusco City via Puno City. He was carrying a sophisticated radio that was to be used by MRTA members to intercept military and police communications prior to an attack.

Villar was one of the 47 MRTA members who escaped from Miguel Castro Castro Jail in Canto Grande in July 1991. The mastermind behind that escape was Victor Polay Campos.

According to a police source that participated in the capture, Villar is third in the MRTA hierarchy due to his close contact with Polay Campos, who is being held at a prison in Yanamayo (Puno) and because he knows the southern part of the country where the MRTA is trying to reorganize its forces.

Nestor Cerpa Cartolin ranks second within the MRTA leadership. [passage

Narcotics Brigade Seizes 250 kg of 'Pure' Cocaine Hydrochloride

PA2603225593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The Customs Department's Special Narcotics Brigade has seized 250 kg of pure cocaine hydrochloride worth over $20 million on the international market. The intended final destination for the drug was the United States.

This is the first time the Customs Department's Special Narcotics Brigade has seized such a large amount of pure cocaine hydrochloride at Jorge Chavez Airport.

The 250 kg of the 98-percent pure drug were reportedly brought in from Alto Huallaga. Evangelica Villanueva de Gutierrez placed the merchandise on the LAN Chile Airlines flight and signed the export document. [passage omitted]

Congress Approves Articles on Presidential Powers

PA2603184993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] If a draft bill submitted to Congress is approved, the president may be empowered to dissolve Congress. Meanwhile, the Congressional Constitution Commission ratified the president's power to grant pardons and commute sentences.

The Executive Branch will be able to decree special measures by issuing emergency decree-laws on economic and

financial matters when it is in the country's best interest, according to Paragraph 19 of Article 9 on the reform of the Executive Branch. During the morning session of 25 March, the last eight paragraphs of this reform package were approved.

In addition, the Congressional Constitution Commission ratified the president's powers to grant pardons and commute sentences, except in cases prohibited by law.

During the same session, the Congressional Constitution Commission tasked with modifying and approving the text of the new Constitution, presided over by Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, approved six articles pertaining to Chapter VI on the reform to the Council of Ministers.

The first five articles of the current Constitution remained unchanged and the text of Article 217 was included. It states the president of the Council of Ministers can be a minister without a portfolio and is the only spokesman, after the president, to report on general government policy.

Undoubtedly, the issue that will cause polemics and heated debates, if it is not postponed, will be the session to be held on 25 or 26 March to discuss the text of Article 280 proposed by the majority.

[Begin Torres y Torres Lara recording] When there is lack of coordination and an insolvable and extreme friction between the Executive and Legislative Branches, someone has to step in to resolve this problem. That someone is the people. To this end, the president of the Republic should decide, through a decree, to dissolve Congress and call for immediate elections so citizens can elect new representatives. [end recording]

Five Members of Honor Tribunal of the Magistracy Sworn In

PA2703145193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0225 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] The five members of the new Honor Tribunal of the Magistracy [Tribunal de Honor de la Magistratura] have been sworn in at a solemn ceremony that took place at the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD]. After the ceremony Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente underscored the independence and autonomy of the Judicial Branch.

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] The ceremony took place at the CCD. It started at 1300 and Council of Ministers President Oscar de la Puente, Supreme Public Prosecutor Blanca Nelida Colan Maguino, and Supreme Court President Luis Serpa Segura attended the ceremony.

The five members of the Honor Tribunal of the Magistracy were sworn in by CCD President Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka. Dr. Manuel de la Puente Lavalle was the first jurist to be sworn in. Fernando de Trazegnies Granda, Guillermo Velaochaga Miranda, Jorge Gregorio Ramirez Diaz, and Miguel de Althaus followed.

The five jurists are prominent professors of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. They started to work on the afternoon of 26 March. Their work will consist of reviewing the reorganization processes that have been implemented in the Judicial Branch and Public Prosecutor's Office since 5 April 1992 and of evaluating current judges and prosecutors. Their work will conclude with the promulgation of the new political Constitution of the state.

[Manual de la Puente] I am aware of the burden placed on us and I am frightened. The only thing I can do is promise to act with integrity.

[Fernando Trazegnies] It would place a burden on my conscience if I refused to participate in this sort of task. I accepted for this reason. I will work as honestly and hard as possible. I can say nothing more.

[Reporter] Luis Bramon Arias, former dean of the Lima Bar Association, was appointed alternate member of the tribunal.

[Oscar de la Puente] This is the beginning of an exact formula to achieve a balance of and separation of branches. Democracy is based on the principle of balance of branches and we cannot talk about a genuine democracy if one of the key branches, namely, the Judicial Branch, does not enjoy the independence, autonomy, and sovereignty it requires.

The CCD appointed, in a wise election, five legal personalities who are independent and professionally qualified. This not only justifies their election but enhances it. We think this tribunal will restore independence and professional status to the Judicial Branch. [end recording]

Uruguay

Lacalle Hails NAFTA, Ends Visit to Mexico

PY2603171293 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] President Luis Alberto Lacalle has hailed the integration endeavors by Mexico, Canada, and the United States, which crystallized in the North American Free Trade Agreement. He stated that this is the first step to solving problems that have hampered friendly relations between the United States and Latin American countries for years. Lacalle stated that only through integration will Latin American economies be strengthened.

Lacalle and his retinue are returning to Uruguay today at the end of their four-day state visit to Mexico. Their flight is scheduled to arrive at Carrasco International Airport at approximately 1230 local time [1530 GMT].

Foreign Minister on Mexico Visit

PY2603185093 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Report by Leonardo Galante from Carrasco international airport]

[Text] Good afternoon, (Efrain Churi Iribarne) and Espectador listeners. President Luis Alberto Lacalle arrived 10 minutes ago. He held the traditional ceremony at which Vice President Dr. Gonzalo Aguirre returned power to him. The president left rapidly without making

any comment. This surprised all the journalists here at Carrasco international airport, where there were considerable expectations. It had been said that Uruguay might increase its traditional and nontraditional export quotas to the Mexican market. There are good prospects for the Uruguayan economy and for increasing such quotas through the Free Trade Treaty that Mexico signed with the United States and Canada.

Well, we can report that the president has arrived, that he signed a document before the under secretary of the Presidency, and that he rapidly left thereafter.

We talked with Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu. El Espectador asked him about the results of the visit and the possibility of promoting Uruguayan-Mexican cultural and commercial relations. Abreu said that the results were highly positive.

On the promotion of Uruguayan trade with Mexico, Abreu told El Espectador the following:

[Begin recording] The result is positive. I don't think we can boast that our accomplishments can be seen right away, but I can tell you that the visit was fruitful, that political ties have been remarkably strengthened, that the promotion of commerce—which is a mechanism [words indistinct]—and that we found a strong desire and determination to work, not just in the area of commerce but also in the area of investment.

I do not know whether the REUTER News Agency covered President Lacalle's meeting with Mexican entrepreneurs, but I can tell you that the meeting was imbued with optimism and determination to jointly work on specific topics, which were clearly outlined by Uruguayan and Mexican entrepreneurs.

I believe it is important that entrepreneurs let their voices be heard because this is how the political approach can give way to those who are, in the final analysis, the real factors for the transformation of our resources and for the exportation of our products. [end recording]

Abreu thus viewed the signing of a treaty in the cultural area and a treaty for the development and promotion of investments between Uruguay and Mexico and vice versa, which will promote Uruguayan productive capacity, and which—as the people who were awaiting the presidential delegation put it—will open great prospects for Uruguayan exports.

Defense Minister Confirms Wage Increase for Military

PY2603221393 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 19 Mar 93 p 8

[Excerpts] The next national budget bill will include a special wage increase for military personnel, Defense Minister Mariano Brito reported. He thus confirmed what was stated by the Air Force commander, Lieutenant General Carlos Pache, during the ceremony commemorating his branch's 80th anniversary. The defense minister also said the executive branch has decided to grant the concession of air services for the country's interior to the company "Aviasur S.A." He said Congress will receive a draft bill today to protect the Armed Forces' actions.

The increase for military personnel "is the application of what the executive branch announced before Congress as its salary policy for the Armed Forces on 15 July 1992," Brito said.

The wage increase will consist of paying "compensation to military men for their professional activity—which is a special commitment to the government—in a manner different from the rest of the public employees." The reason for this different treatment is that soldiers "are different—and this is not a privilege—and their activity should be paid with dignity," Brito said. [passage omitted]

Just as President Lacalle reported on 15 March, a bill protecting the Armed Forces' actions inside national territory will be presented to Congress today.

As Lacalle also announced, the executive branch is working on modernizing the Armed Forces Organizational Law. "We do not mean to draft a totally new law, but only some aspects by maintaining the valuable things that exist," the minister said.

Finally, regarding the statements made by the economy minister abroad about accepting some donations, Brito said the economy minister meant to say that "no purchases will be made if things can be obtained for free." In this manner, the economy minister hopes to attain "a reasonable reduction in public expenses." "That is what we must understand if we correctly interpret the economy minister's statements," Brito said.

Venezuela

Minister Denies Resignation Reports; Explains 15 Mar Events

PA2703154693 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Mar 93 p D2

[Report by Victor Manuel Reinoso]

[Text] Defense Minister General Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez denied reports related to his resignation and stated "there must be some people who are interested in my resignation."

During the afternoon hours of 16 March, President Carlos Andres Perez met with the defense minister, as well as with Gen. Gonzalo Bajares Colmenares, director of Security and Social Welfare, in order to evaluate the progress on social assistance plans aimed at improving the quality of life within the FAN [National Armed Forces].

In explaining the accomplishments made by the National Armed Forces Social Security Institute, IPSFAN, during its 43 years of existence, Defense Minister Jimenez Sanchez pointed out that in 1992 the institution granted 1,482 mortgage loans and 1,700 vehicle loans. In addition, the institution also expanded the scholarship program for officers' children and FAN personnel in general. He added

that during the same year, approximately 930 housing units were distributed as part of the garrison housing program.

When questioned regarding the events that took place on the night of 15 March on the Caracas-Valencia highway, the defense minister rejected the way the events were disclosed and reported by some radio stations. He explained that since 15 March, he has received reports about six or eight civilian vehicles, without any license plates, allegedly transporting armed people wearing green uniforms, from Valencia and from there to Maracay. He indicated that once he became aware of the reports, he had ordered an immediate inspection along the highway. No vehicles were found, which makes them surmise the information was unsubstantiated.

Regarding events that took place on 13 and 14 March at the "Simon Bolivar" International Airport military ramp, the minister explained as follows:

[Jimenez Sanchez] Three Air Force soldiers who were on ramp 4, left the installations grounds and started drinking. Afterward, one of them entered the ramp 4 installations, took his regulation machine gun, as well as an Uzi, and robbed a civilian. The watchman on duty notified the National Police. A lieutenant and some soldiers tried to arrest them, shots were fired, and the lieutenant was injured. Subsequently, the three soldiers were arrested. This incident was not an attack on a military installation.

[Reporter] What is your opinion regarding the prosecutor general's request to have the president stand trial?

[Jimenez Sanche :] That is an entirely political issue that must be handled by the Supreme Court of Justice and the political sector of the country. The military must not get involved in that issue.

[Reporter] We must suppose then that you do not wish to voice an opinion regarding the proposal to reschedule the elections for an earlier date?

[Jimenez Sanchez] I prefer to leave that issue in the hands of the appropriate people.

[Reporter] In any case, would the FAN be prepared if the elections were rescheduled?

[Jimenez Sanchez] The FAN is always ready to take on whatever duty they are called to assume at a specific moment.

Press Association, Perez Hold Meeting on Freedom of Media

PA2603201393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] A last minute report indicates that a meeting has just ended at the Miraflores Presidential Palace between the Venezuelan Press Association and President Carlos Andres Perez dealing with one of the topics discussed at the Inter-American Press Association in Miami—Venezuela's freedom of press.

The meeting requested by the Venezuelan Press Association also served so members could explain to the president the problems they have regarding Decree No. 1810, which retains 5 percent of the media's net income for published materials. At the end of the meeting, Eduardo Aleman, president of the Venezuelan Press Association, stated freedom of press in Venezuela is not under threat.

[Begin recording] [Aleman] Most Venezuelan editors share the view there is true freedom of expression in Venezuela. I personally believe the regrettable incidents that have taken place involving journalists are perhaps due to the delicate situation the country has experienced during the past year. I do not personally believe the government has directly attacked any of the media....[pauses] or most of the media. Perhaps there may be a particular case at a particular moment; there could have been an attack to one of the media. This does not mean, however, that freedom of expression is under threat in Venezuela.

[Unidentified reporter] Is this the stance of the Press Association?

[Aleman] This is the position of the majority of Press Association members. [end recoding]

Energy Minister Reports 1992 Petroleum Profits

PA2703162393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] In 1992, Venezuelan Petroleum, PDVSA, operations rendered very favorable results as the consolidated profits of the national petroleum industry reached the amount of 98 billion bolivares.

According to the PDVSA annual assembly, Energy and Mines Minister Alirio Parra reported that the firm had decided to increase the industry's capital by 78 billion bolivares. The minister said he was happy with the 1992 profits, as it had been a difficult year for the international petroleum industry.

He added that the crude oil reserves increased by 680 million barrels, while the gas reserves increased by 2.4 trillion cubic feet. Crude oil exports reached 2.54 million barrels a day. Furthermore, foreign financing reached $1.888 billion, which was much lower than the $2.830 billion authorized by the Executive Branch.

Alirio Parra also highlighted that the industry's production potential was estimated at 2.833 million barrels a day and efforts had been geared to overcome a decrease of 617,000 barrels a day. He also noted that potential estimates were very conservative when confronted with the magnitude of the country's proven reserves.

Parra reported that exports had amounted to 2.54 million barrels a day, which was slightly higher than projections in the fiscal revenue estimates. The average price of crude oil and by-products was $14.91 a barrel. This represents a reduction of $1 a barrel compared to 1991 and reflects fluctuations in the world petroleum market. Total petroleum income, however, was 843.712 billion bolivares; a

80.393 billion bolivares increase compared to last year.All these results allowed the industry to contribute 486 billion bolivares to the national treasury and for its total assets to increase by 1.4 trillion bolivares as a result of investments.